Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXII, Issue No. 21 | THURSDAY JANUARY 26, 2012 | www.saipantribune.com | 50¢

OPINION METER

This week's poll:
In a week's time, how often do you visit any CNMI government-owned website?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

NATION

President Obama delivers a challenge to shrink the gap between rich and poor. ➤ PAGE 14

FOCUS

Tony Nicklinson is seeking the British court's permission to die. ➤ PAGE 17

LIFE & STYLE

"Hugo" and "The Artist" head the nominees for the 2012 Academy Awards. ➤ PAGE 19

Grace period for paying CUC bills now 21 days. PAGE 2
3 GOP lawmakers to run as independents. PAGE 3

Casino tops Fitial's list in meeting with lawmakers

» $10M proposed Saipan casino license fee still a sticky issue

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial listed yesterday seven things he wants to discuss with lawmakers, including the establishment of a "thriving casino industry on Saipan," when they meet over lunch this Friday.

RELATED NEWS
➤ Native American tribe mulls $260M Fiji casino partnership. PAGE 7

This come a little over a year since their much publicized full leadership meeting that produced at least one revenue-generating law—the tourism incentive program whose rules have yet to be finalized for actual implementation.

Casino establishment on Saipan is

See CASINO on Page 4

Ex-DOLI secretary Zachares disbarred

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Zachares

Superior Court associate judge David A. Wiseman has ordered the disbarment of former Labor and Immigration Secretary Mark D. Zachares who was convicted in 2007 of accepting tens of thousands of dollars in gifts from lobbyist Jack Abramoff, himself convicted of corruption.

In a written order issued Tuesday, Wiseman disbarred Zachares from practicing law in Commonwealth courts and ordered that his name be stricken from the

See EX-DOLI on Page 4

Dandan park sports new kids' playground

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Dandan Village could serve as a role model that other villages on Saipan can emulate, according to Tan Siu Lin Foundation president Jerry Tan.

"The Dandan Village, through the Action Team, doesn't wait for other people to do everything for the village, especially not the government because it has limited resources. They take it upon themselves through their volunteer work. This is a model that all other villages should learn and copy in my opinion," said Tan yesterday.

Tan was among the guests at the ribbon cutting ceremony that marked the official opening

See DANDAN on Page 4

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Tan Siu Lin Foundation president Jerry Tan, right, and Dandan Action Team's Frank Camacho, left, lead the cutting of the ribbon that marked the official opening of the Dandan Children's Park yesterday. ➤

CHC housing perks now delayed for 2 months

» Staff demoralized; fear payless payday

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

If it was bad before, it's even more worrisome now.

That's the prevailing sentiment of many employees of the Commonwealth Health Center, who told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that, despite experiencing austerity measures for several years, they are more demoralized now under the healthcare corporation due to lack of reassurance from both management and the central government.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, employees from various units of the public hospital revealed yesterday that their housing allowance has been delayed for two months now (Decem-

See CHC on Page 4

IT&E
Life in Motion
Get the
Samsung Galaxy EPIC Touch or HTC Evo Design
on CNMI's #1 Android Network!
Saipan: 682-4ITE (4483) • Tinian: 433-0210 • Rota: 532-3599 • www.ite.net
ANDROID 500 PLAN
500 Local Voice Minutes
Unlimited Local SMS
Unlimited Android Data
ONLY $59 PER MONTH
SEE INSIDE FOR DETAILS
*Terms and conditions apply

Local

Grace period for paying CUC bills extended to 21 days

» Fitial also OKs $58K in poker fees for Tinian programs

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Residential utility customers now have an extra week to settle their power and water bills without being disconnected from the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. system as a result of a new law that Gov. Benigno R. Fitial signed on Monday.

Public Law 17-68 extends the existing 14-day grace period by seven days for a total of 21 days after the billing due date for CUC residential customers.

With delayed wages and work hour cuts as a result of a weak economy, the 21-day grace period is expected to bring relief to hundreds of CUC residential customers.

The new law also prohibits CUC from disconnecting services to residential customers who are receiving utility assistance from the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs because of DCCA's failure to timely remit payments to CUC.

PL 17-68 also disallows CUC from disconnecting utility services on a Friday, and/or on the last workday of the week.

Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota), author of Senate Bill 17-23, Senate Draft 1 that became PL 17-68, said the economic recession makes it hard for many residential customers to make CUC payments.

"As such, they need more time once they receive their CUC billing statement to make their payments especially if receipt of the statement is delayed by the postal service," said Taimanao, chair of the Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee.

Tinian local law

The governor also signed a local bill appropriating and re-appropriating a total of $58,000 from poker license fees to the Tinian Municipal Scholarship.

Fitial signed Rep. Trenton Conner's (R-Tinian) House Local Bill 17-66 into Tinian Local Law 17-10.

Of the total amount, $32,187 collected from poker and pachinko slot machines will be given to the Tinian Municipal Scholarship. The other $25,813 in funds re-appropriated from previous programs or business units will also go toward the scholarship program.

Library seeks grant to preserve cultural heritage collections

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth's state library, Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, is poised to apply for up to $250,000 in federal funds to implement the recent findings of a study commissioned to develop a plan for the maintenance and preservation of the CNMI's cultural heritage collections and resources.

JKPL executive director John Oliver Gonzales said yesterday that they will submit the 2012 CNMI Statewide Implementation Grant application to the Institute of Museum and Library Services "for and on behalf of our cultural heritage-related institutions" on or before the Feb. 1 deadline.

Among these institutions are the NMI Museum, NMI Archives, Historic Preservation Office, Division of Lands & Registration under the Department of Lands and Natural Resources, Diocese of Chalan Kanoa, NMI Recorder, and the Judicial Law Library of the Law Revision Commission.

The grant aims to put into action the findings and recommendations of the study funded by the $40,000 Statewide Planning Grant awarded to JKPL in fiscal year 2010. The study called for professional development and training, acquisition of specialized software and equipment to organize cultural heritage materials, and development of an emergency disaster preparedness plan and a central repository for these heritage collections.

IMLS will award the grant to the successful applicant in September, with the funded project to begin the following month.

While the grant is highly competitive, Gonzales said that JKPL deserves the grant due to its "compelling need" to preserve its "perilously fragile" cultural heritage collections that are "at risk of being irreversibly lost."

"We expect that the grant funds will be maximized toward direct public benefit as intended end user beneficiaries so that they can fully access our rich cultural heritage records and resources on island or online," he added.

Newly-sworn in Commerce secretary sets priorities

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A day after the Senate confirmed his nomination, Sixto Igisomar took his oath of office as Department of Commerce secretary yesterday morning with his priorities clear: support and outreach to small businesses, enticing investments, and beefing up divisions and offices under the department.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial administered the oath of office for Igisomar in the presence of the Commerce secretary's wife Catherine, some Commerce staff and House Commerce and Tourism Committee chair Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan).

Igisomar said his priorities will be "enhancements of divisions and offices under Commerce, support and outreach to small businesses, entice investments, balancing management of current grants under Commerce, as well as setting priorities on sustainable economic future for the CNMI."

"For now, I expect to align key directors under Commerce and collaborate with the governor and lieutenant governor to map the agenda on the above," Igisomar told *Saipan Tribune* hours after the swearing-in ceremony where no media was invited. The Fitial administration shared photos of the ceremony hours later. ***See photos on Page 9.***

Press secretary Angel Demapan separately said the governor congratulated the new Commerce secretary "and urged him to continue the work he has been doing since he took charge of the department." Fitial nominated Igisomar on Nov. 9.

"The governor also reiterated the need to work toward enticing more investors to do business in the Commonwealth," Demapan said.

Igisomar has been holding the post of Commerce secretary in an acting capacity since the post was vacated over a year ago by Michael Ada. Igisomar was the deputy Commerce secretary when Ada was still on board.

There's no telling yet whether a new deputy secretary will be named. Demapan said that Igisomar will review his department's needs and come up with a decision on staffing.

Besides being Commerce secretary, Igisomar is also the current chairman of the NMI Retirement Fund board of trustees.

Igisomar thanked Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos "for their confidence, the staff of Commerce for their willingness to help make Commerce and the CNMI a better place and all the supporters who went before the Senate during my hearing, as well as those that submitted their written testimonies or verbal lobbying recently and through the past year." He also thanked his wife Catherine Sablan Tenorio "for her continuous support, and my Igisomar and Tenorio [families], as well as a long list of extended families and friends too many to mention."

Prosecutor: Man admits firing gun

Juan B. Roberto, who was arrested over the weekend over a domestic argument with his girlfriend at his residence in Dandan, admitted firing an unregistered shotgun three times, according to a prosecutor.

In the government's opposition to Roberto's request to modify bail, assistant attorney general Eileen Escudero Wisor said the evidence against the suspect is overwhelming.

Wisor said that Roberto admitted to firing off three live ammunition rounds with an illegal firearm in his house, without provocation, in the presence of his girlfriend.

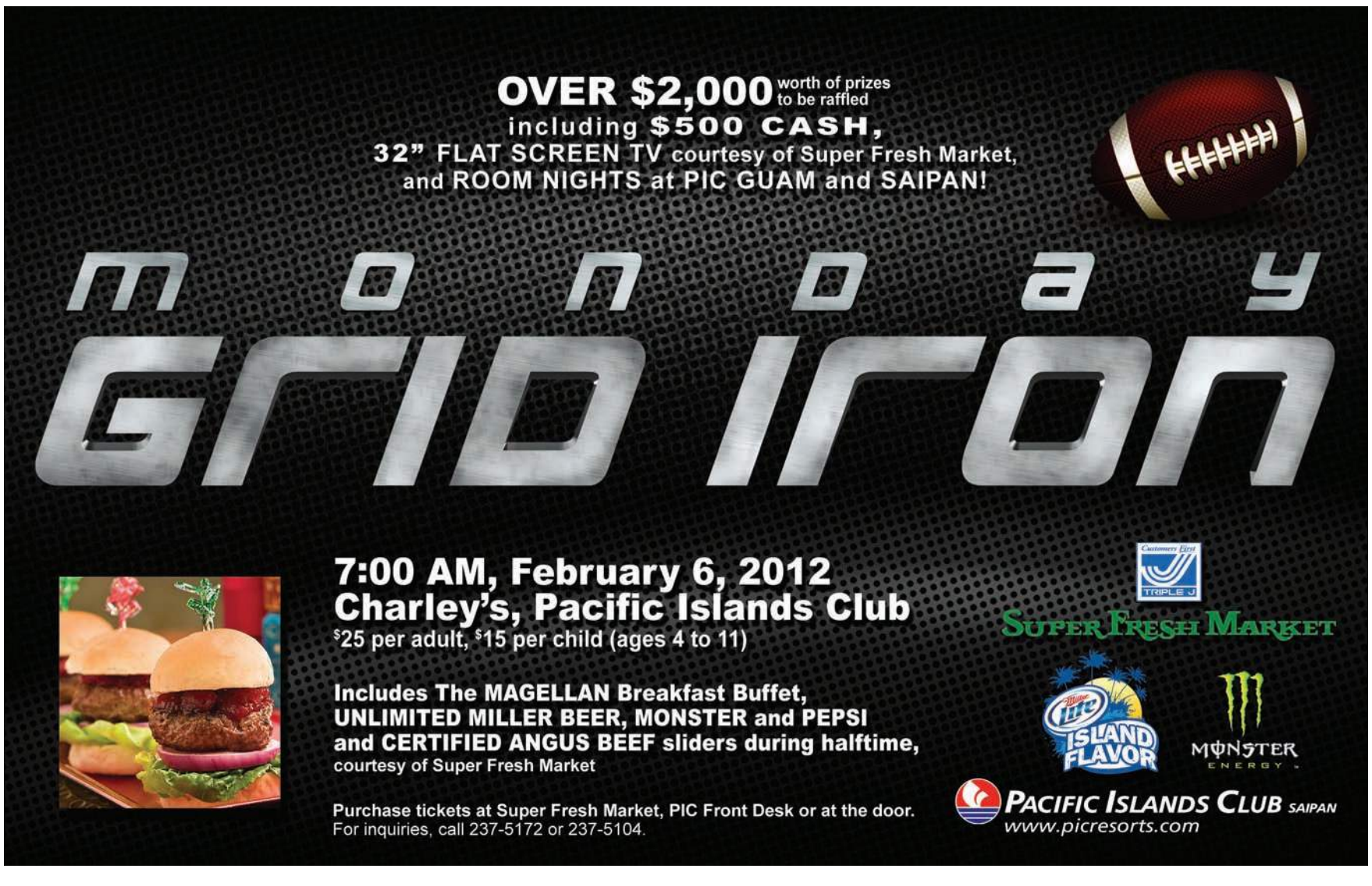
She said this was corroborated, with police finding a .22 caliber Ruger rifle at the crime scene and three empty shells, along with several 9mm ammunitions.

Also, police recovered marijuana plants and paraphernalia for marijuana and methamphetamine or "ice," Wisor said.

"The Commonwealth pleads with the court to recognize that a situation such as this exemplifies the meeting of the standard that is required to deny a bail modification: A danger to the community. In fact, there could rarely be a circumstance construed to be more dangerous than this to the community," Wisor said.

Superior Court associate judge Joseph N. Camacho, however, modified the bail, placing Roberto under house arrest. Camacho said the firearm has been seized from Roberto and a subsequent search at his house yielded no other firearms.

He allowed Roberto to post $1,000 cash and $9,000 unsecured bond. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***


OVER $2,000 worth of prizes to be raffled
including $500 CASH,
32" FLAT SCREEN TV courtesy of Super Fresh Market,
and ROOM NIGHTS at PIC GUAM and SAIPAN!
MONDAY
GRID IRON
7:00 AM, February 6, 2012
Charley's, Pacific Islands Club
$25 per adult, $15 per child (ages 4 to 11)
Includes The MAGELLAN Breakfast Buffet,
UNLIMITED MILLER BEER, MONSTER and PEPSI
and CERTIFIED ANGUS BEEF sliders during halftime,
courtesy of Super Fresh Market
Purchase tickets at Super Fresh Market, PIC Front Desk or at the door.
For inquiries, call 237-5172 or 237-5104.
SUPER FRESH MARKET
ISLAND FLAVOR
MONSTER ENERGY
PACIFIC ISLANDS CLUB SAIPAN
www.picresorts.com

3 GOP lawmakers to run as independents

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

House minority leader Joseph Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan) and Rep. Ray Tebuteb (R-Saipan) separately confirmed yesterday that they will seek re-election on Nov. 6 but will run as independent candidates, while other incumbent GOP members have yet to make a decision.

Tebuteb

Guerrero

Yumul

"Because I don't believe in the current Republican leadership," Tebuteb told *Saipan Tribune* when asked for the reason behind his shift to being an independent candidate. He ran under the Republican banner in the last election.

Rep. Ray Yumul (R-Saipan) is eyeing a run for the Senate, also as an independent.

Long-time Republican lawmakers expressed disappointment with the governor's selection as GOP president in November, when party bylaws were amended to allow a sitting governor to become party president and when an election of officers was held without inviting the incumbent Republicans.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial gave a Dec. 30 deadline to lawmakers he sent letters to or personally asked to join him in the GOP.

The governor rejoined the Republican Party in January 2011, 10 years after leaving it to form his own Covenant Party in 2001 to support his gubernatorial bid, which he won on his second attempt.

But while some Republicans will not be running under Fitial's party in November, other Covenant Party members and independents will be seeking re-election under the governor's Republican Party, including vice speaker Felicidad Ogumoro (Cov-Saipan), House floor leader George Camacho (Ind-Saipan) and Rep. Ray Basa (Cov-Saipan).

Rep. Tony Sablan (R-Saipan) and Rep. Frank Dela Cruz (R-Saipan) separately said yesterday they haven't made a decision yet on re-election and party affiliation should they run again.

WIN A SHOPPING SPREE IN 2012
Celebrating 38 YEARS
Own a policy at Pacifica Insurance and enter for a chance to win.
Shopping sprees will be held at
JOETEN SUPERSTORE
Call for details.
www.pacificains.com/shoppingspree
pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc.
Rest Assured.
Located at Joeten Center in Susupe
P.O. Box 500168, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: 234-6267 | Fax: 234-5880
General Agents for:
TOKIO MARINE PACIFIC
CIC Century Insurance
PACIFIC GUARDIAN LIFE

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Partners in Education

The Saipan Tribune would like to acknowledge these fine sponsors who are committed to education in the CNMI. Thank you all for ensuring that our children receive the worlds most up to date textbook: the newspaper.

DIAMOND SPONSORS

Tan Siu Lin Foundation
Dandan Elem. School • Grace Christian Academy • Koblerville Elementary School • Saipan International School • Green Meadow School • Kagman High School • WSR Elementary School • Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School

Mobil
Brilliant Star Montessori • Calvary Christian Academy • Cha-Cha Oceanview Junior High School • Dandan Elementary School • Eucon International School • G.T. Camacho Elementary School • Garapan Elementary School • Golden Harvest International School • Green Meadow School • Grace Christian Academy • Hopwood Junior High School • Kagman Elementary • Kagman High School • Koblerville Elementary • Marianas Baptist Academy • Marianas High School • Mount Carmel School • Oleai Elementary School • Saipan Community School • Saipan International School • Saipan Southern High School • San Antonio Elementary School • San Vicente Elementary School • Seventh Day Adventist School • Tanapag Elementary School • Whispering Palms School • WSR Elementary School

GOLD SPONSOR

Pacific Historic Parks ★ Remember ★ Honor ★ Understand ★
Garapan Elementary School • Eucon International School • Hopwood Junior High School • Kagman Elementary School • San Antonio Elementary School • San Vicente Elementary School

SILVER SPONSORS

Barney's Pizza
Eucon International School • Garapan Elementary School • Grace Christian Academy • Marianas High School • Mount Carmel School • SAEF

Brabu Pharmacy and Wellness Center
Saipan Southern High School • San Antonio Elementary School • Tanapag Elementary School

TakeCare
Brilliant Star Montessori • Calvary Christian Academy • Cha-cha Oceanview Junior High School • Dandan Elementary School • Eucon International School • G.T. Camacho Elementary School • Garapan Elementary School • Grace Christian Academy • Hopwood Junior High School • Kagman Elementary School • Kagman High School • Koblerville Elementary School • Marianas Baptist Academy • Marianas High School • Mount Carmel School • Oleai Elementary School • Saipan Community School • Saipan International School • Saipan Southern High School • San Antonio Elementary School • San Vicente Elementary School • Seventh Day Adventist School • Tanapag Elementary School • Whispering Palms School • WSR Elementary School

IT&E Life in Motion
Calvary Christian Academy • Cha-cha Oceanview Junior High School • Grace Christian Academy • Hopwood Junior High School • Kagman High School • Marianas Baptist Academy • Marianas High School • Mount Carmel School • Oleai Elementary School • Saipan International School • Saipan Southern High School • San Vicente Elementary School • WSR Elementary School

Saipan Seventh-day Adventist Clinic
Calvary Christian Academy • Hopwood Junior High School • Koblerville Elementary School • Marianas High School • Seventh Day Adventist School

CO-SPONSORS

Century Insurance Co.
D & Q
Richard & Marian Aldan Pierce
Shirley's Coffee Shop
Century Hotel
Saipan Grand Hotel
Marianas High School
San Vicente Elementary School
Tanapag Elementary School
WSR Elementary School
Oleai Elementary School
Garapan Elementary School
Saipan Community School

If your company wants to participate in our program, please contact Celia Pillarina at 235-2440 ext. 171 or e-mail celia_pillarina@saipantribune.com

‘Remote gaming’ bill fails to get House panel nod

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The seven-member House Committee on Commerce and Tourism is not recommending passage of a bill proposing to establish remote gaming industry in the CNMI, citing possible unconstitutionality and the U.S. government’s crackdown on remote gaming enterprises.

The committee, chaired by Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan), recommends the “filing” of Rep. Froilan Tenorio’s (Cov-Saipan) House Bill 17-186.

“Your committee finds it inappropriate to take action on a legislation that presents more questions than answers in this time of economic hardship,” the panel said, after getting comments from affected entities.

Tenorio introduced the bill in March 2011, a few months after the Senate killed his bill to legalize casino gaming on Saipan.

Rep. Ray Tebuteb (R-Saipan) said yesterday this gaming bill is “good as dead” unless the author is able to muster enough supporters to still pass the measure despite the committee’s recommendation.

In a three-page report, Villagomez’s committee said that while HB 17-186 is aligned with the leadership’s mission to produce legislation that will generate fresh money into the CNMI, the bill “may be in violation of the Constitution.”

The panel also said that, based on the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission’s comments, the federal government opposes Internet gaming, which the committee said appears to include the “remote gaming enterprises” that HB 17-186 proposes.

Tenorio had said his bill’s remote casino gaming is different from online or Internet gambling. A remote game means any game offered for play to any person not physically on the premises of the operator.

Under Tenorio’s bill, any licensed casino on Rota and Tinian may apply for a license to operate a remote game in a telecasino on Saipan via the Internet, telephone, or other means.

A license fee shall not exceed $1,000 per location per year.

But the House Commerce and Tourism Committee, quoting the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission’s comments, said the federal government’s opposition to certain Internet gaming led to the indictment and arrest on April 5, 2011 of the founders and operators of the three largest online Internet casino gaming sites, including Poker Stars, Absolute Poker, and Full Tilt Poker for violating the U.S. Unlawful Internet Gambling Enforcement Act of 2006.

They were charged with bank fraud, illegal gambling offenses, and money laundering.

Marianas Trades Institute burglarized

The Northern Marianas Trades Institute in Lower Base was burglarized Tuesday night and several tools worth thousands of dollars were stolen.

A staff at Marianas Trades Institute discovered the burglary yesterday morning, *Saipan Tribune* learned.

A detective disclosed that the staff noticed that several tools and equipment were missing. No other details were given.

The Department of Public Safety placed the matter under further investigation. DPS has yet to release information about the burglary to the media.

The Northern Marianas Trades Institute is located at a 35,000-square-foot warehouse of a former garment factory. Businessman Anthony Pellegrino established the only trades school in the CNMI in 2008. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

EX-DOLI

From Page 1

roll of admitted attorneys of the CNMI Bar.

“The court believes that Mr. Zachares’ misconduct has resulted in serious injuries to the legal profession, to the public, and to the legal system in general and finds that the appropriate discipline is disbarment,” he said.

Wiseman said the community expects lawyers to exhibit the highest standards of honesty and integrity. Lawyers, he said, have a duty not to engage in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, or interference with the administration of justice.

The Commonwealth Disciplinary Rules provide that a disbarred attorney cannot apply for readmission until five years after disbarment.

Zachares was directed to notify his clients and others about his disbarment. Prior to re-admission to practice law before CNMI courts, he will be required take and pass the CNMI Bar Exam, including the Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination.

Zachares worked in the CNMI from 1994 to January 2002, first as an assistant attorney general with the Office of the Attorney General and then secretary of the then Department of Labor and Immigration. He no longer resides in the CNMI.

Zachares’ indictment was in connection with his work as aide to Rep. Don Young. He left Young’s staff in 2005.

In April 2007, Zachares pleaded guilty at the U.S. District Court in Washington D.C. to a count of conspiracy to defraud the United States.

According to news archives, Zachares admitted engaging in official acts on Abramoff’s behalf while working for Young, who then chaired the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

In November 2010, the court sentenced Zachares to 12 weekends in prison, four years probation, 200 hours of community service, and $4,000 fine.

In October 2011, Wiseman ordered Zachares to show cause as to the extent of discipline he should be subjected to for his conviction while a member of the CNMI Bar Association. The show cause hearing was held on Dec. 11, 2011.

In his order issued Tuesday, Wiseman said he acknowledges Zachares’ letter of withdrawal from the CNMI Bar on June 9, 2007, an action required of him as part of his plea agreement.

Despite the letter of withdrawal, Wiseman said the CNMI Judiciary has a right to proceed with its disciplinary action since a member of the bar cannot preempt disciplinary action against him or her simply by sending a letter of withdrawal from the bar after the misconduct has occurred.

Wiseman noted that the action in which Zachares was convicted of started prior to the letter.

“If such were the case, and a member could withdraw in a situation like this, then the member could reapply for active status and there would be no adverse action of record against the member at such time that would and should prevent his readmission. This is a situation that the Judiciary cannot allow to occur,” Wiseman said.

He said the crime of conspiracy to defraud the United States is a crime of moral turpitude and is also one of fraud and dishonesty.

“Such criminal conduct reflects adversely on an attorney’s honesty, trustworthiness, and fitness as a lawyer,” he said.

An attorney with such convictions, Wiseman added, should be punished by way of the court imposing a disciplinary result that will assure the public’s confidence in the Judiciary’s regulation of the attorneys practicing in the CNMI.

CHC

From Page 1

ber and January).

This benefit is issued every first week of the month amounting to $800 per month for those with dependents and $600 for single employees. Employees hired from outside the Commonwealth—most of them nurses and physicians—receive this benefit.

Many fear that they may experience a payless payday on Friday, Jan. 27, after getting no assurances from their superiors and management yesterday that they will be paid on time.

Saipan Tribune tried to obtain comments from corporation chief executive officer Juan N. Babauta about a possible payroll delay this Friday but he did return calls. He earlier said that due to the transition period, payroll would still depend on the local government.

The hospital’s pharmacist, Anthony Raho, who is also a member of the healthcare corporation board, declined to comment about the delayed housing allowance and possible payroll problem, besides saying that the corporation continues to look for money.

“They’re working on it [money for payroll],” he told *Saipan Tribune.*

According to Raho, demoralization among hospital personnel is not new and has been in existence way back before the corporation took over—since the government started to enforce austerity measures at CHC.

Raho described the current situation at the hospital as “very trying and difficult” but he believes this is common for any organization that is experiencing changes or transition. The changes, he admits, are drastic and very stressful to everybody involved but all desired changes wouldn’t just happen overnight.

The healthcare corporation took over from the Department of Public Health in October 2011 and was given only $5 million as seed money.

Personnel cost

On Tuesday, Babauta told reporters that about 85 to 90 percent of the corporation’s budget goes to personnel costs alone.

He revealed that the biweekly payroll for about 600 personnel costs $800,000—an amount that he said cannot be sustained based on the revenue the hospital generates each month. He said a more realistic budget for the corporation is at least $25 million.

The then-Department of Public Health spent a total of $19.7 million in fiscal year 2011: $18 million for personnel cost and $1.6 million for all others.

The corporation earlier asked the Legislature for a supplemental budget of $38.5 million. Of that amount, $1.2 million is for the subsistence/housing allowance of personnel.

DANDAN

From Page 1

of the Dandan Children’s Park, which now features a $6,000 children’s playground donated by the TSL Foundation.

Tan disclosed that he said yes “without hesitation” when Dandan Action Team’s Frank Camacho asked him for help in procuring playground equipment for the park after seeing the group’s efforts in the project. The park was rehabilitated using funds from the Community Development Block Grant administered by the Northern Marianas Housing Corp.

“The difference between this park from the other parks is that Frank and his group [are] taking full ownership,” explained Tan. “It’s one thing to find money for a playground equipment but if nobody is taking ownership, only a few months and nobody will be able to come and enjoy the facility. The money put in the facility will just go to waste.”

Tan noted that it would be easy to duplicate the playground or the park in other areas but it won’t last unless the village will work together and take care of the facility.

“I’m hoping that people would come here and take a look at what Dandan Children’s Park looks like today and, more importantly, look at the people behind it and their continuing efforts to take care of it because this is going to last,” he said.

The Foundation’s support for the park, Tan said, is not a one-time deal as he assured the residents of their continued support through repair and maintenance as well as improvements for the facility.

Tan urged residents to use the facility responsible. “While you enjoy it, please take care of the property and the equipment so everybody gets to enjoy it on a daily basis.”

Camacho, for his part, said he is “honored and humbled” by Tan’s remarks.

“To be recognized for our work here is really something but it’s the whole group that has made it possible. We as a team will continue to work harder and encourage more participation in this cause,” he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Yesterday’s event was also attended by government leaders and other community members, including 19 fifth graders from Dandan Elementary School under bilingual teacher Cabrini Hambros, who served as the guests of honor at the ceremony.

Nixon Angey, 11, said he always goes to the park after school and during the weekends to play with his friends. “Now it really looks nice,” he said.

Ten-year-old Kaldora Inos said the park is where she can spend time with her family so she is willing to help take care of it. “If I see someone who is littering here, I will tell that person not to do it.”

CASINO

From Page 1

No. 1 on the governor’s list.

Fitial and Rep. Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan), along with some House members, continue to disagree on a $10 million casino license fee as proposed in a House bill now pending in the Senate. The Saipan casino bill requires a $10-million casino license fee, and a non-refundable casino license application fee of $250,000.

Tenorio, a former governor and speaker, said the immediate infusion of $10 million for each casino license will help restore 80 work hours biweekly. He said if there are three sets of investors, that’s already $30 million in the bag.

The governor is proposing a much lower casino license fee of $1 million.

A Macau-based casino expert told lawmakers last year that casino gaming would work on Saipan but the island should not expect to draw major investors because of existing challenges such as airline access.

The expert also said it will be difficult to entice foreign businesses to invest millions of dollars because Saipan is not a proven market yet, among other things.

Collaboration’

While some lawmakers interviewed yesterday said they would like to remain optimistic about this “coming together” to move the CNMI forward, others said it looks as though it’s a repeat of the talks last year and would only be rehashed for an election year.

“In an effort to foster much needed collaboration for the common good of the people, I would like to call upon the full membership of the CNMI Legislature for a joint leadership meeting,” Fitial told Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) and House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan).

Copies of the governor’s letter were distributed to House and Senate members yesterday.

Rep. Ray Tebuteb (R-Saipan) said yesterday it is good to have the Legislature and the Executive Branch come together to discuss plans to revive the economy, but hopes that the leaderships of the House and Senate will also come up with their own list of priority items instead of having the governor “dictating” the course of the meeting.

House floor leader George Camacho (Ind-Saipan), among those who will be attending, said he’s hopeful they will be able to accomplish “much.”

“However we accomplish one thing, that will be a step in the right direction,” he said.

Sen. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) had yet to see the governor’s invitation to lawmakers yesterday afternoon, but he said he will be attending and is optimistic about its outcome.

The governor said the meeting’s objective “will be focused on identifying new revenue sources and the formation of working groups that will be tasked to address and resolve [seven] major undertakings.”

These include the establishment of a thriving casino industry on Saipan, identifying new funds to lift austerity measures, solutions to salvage and sustain the Retirement Fund program, and help sustain the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

Completing the list are improving the education of students, reducing costs of utilities for consumers, and improving the general delivery of public services to the community.

The luncheon meeting will be held in the Tapochao Room, second floor, of Saipan World Resort in Susupe on Friday, Jan. 27, at 11:30am.

Full review of NMI Scholarship applications ongoing

» 1K applications unduplicated; 250 assessed; 20 so far denied

CNMI Scholarship administrator Jackie Che told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that full review is ongoing on all the applicants for the spring 2012 semester. A total of 1,692 applications have been deemed renewable.

Until the entire review process is completed, Che said her office cannot confirm any approvals.

She disclosed that there are 1,150 unduplicated applications, of which close to 250 have complete supporting documents already.

So far, close to 20 applications have been denied, mostly for going over the maximum 12 non-degree units allowed during the entire academic career of the student.

Che couldn't say how many applicants will be approved this semester because it is dependent on whether the students meet the criteria and award conditions listed in the rules and regulations governing the scholarship program.

She also disclosed that her office will be working within the $405,000 budget for the spring 2012 term.

The NMI Scholarship Office is budgeted for $2 million this fiscal year. Of that amount, $1.1 million will go to NMC scholars—both Honors and EAP—while the remaining balance will pay for the financial assistance of off-island scholars.

This spring semester's number of new and renewal applications is slightly higher compared to the 1,558 applications submitted for the spring 2011 semester. ***(Moneth Deposa)***

Attao is NMC's new dean of administration

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College has created a new position that will mostly oversee the administrative offices, including the college's finance and budget offices.

NMC confirmed yesterday the appointment of David J. Attao as dean of administration. His chief responsibilities include overseeing various offices at the college including the finance office, the budget office, auxiliary services such as the NMC Bookstore, the information technology office, the procurement and property management office, and the facilities and maintenance office.

Attao's appointment brings to four the number of dean positions at NMC: Student Services, Academic Programs and Services, Administration, Community Programs and Services.

Attao expressed gratitude for his appointment. "I am grateful to have the opportunity to work as the dean of administration and be in a key position to contribute to the growth of the college. I will use my extensive experience in strategic planning and leadership to continue to expand educational opportunities in the CNMI."

Prior to his new appointment, Attao served as acting dean of Community Programs and Services. He was also in charge of NMC Tinian and Rota, where several CREES and federally funded student service programs are ongoing.

He was also the director of the Community Development Institute and site director of the Pacific Basin University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities. He occupied these positions for about eight years.

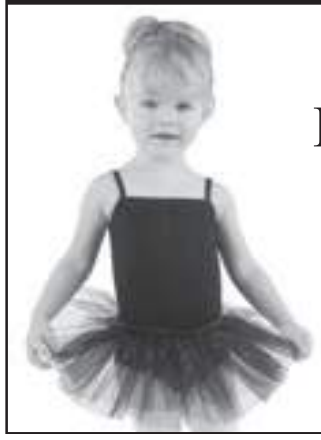
Attao

According to NMC president Sharon Y. Hart, Attao has demonstrated remarkable leadership for the college.

"Dave has demonstrated remarkable leadership in managing major areas of the college, and we are appreciative of his willingness to step into this very important, challenging, and yet very rewarding position," said Hart in a statement.

Attao also serves on numerous community boards, councils, organizations, and sports teams. He holds a master's degree in education from Framingham State University and a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the University of Oregon.

M&J Beauty Salon
$15 – 60 mins Massage
Manicure & Pedicure
starting at $5.00
In front of PIC Z Building
For reservations please call 888-1354
Open 8:00pm – 9:00pm

Glushko's Academy of Performing Arts

OUR 10th YEAR on SAIPAN!
Ballet Classes
for All Ages from 3 years old to Adults
We offer Family Discounts!
Call 483-6271,
to enroll or arrange for FREE TRIAL or send an e-mail: glushkosacademy@yahoo.com
We are located on the 2nd floor of Marianas Business Plaza
Check our page on Facebook!

IMMIGRATION LAW
Bruce L. Mailman
Maya B. Kara
Available services include
• U.S. Permanent Residence (Green Card)
• U.S. Naturalization/Citizenship
• Employment Based U.S. Visas (H1B, H2B, L1, EB1, E1, E2, and others)
• Status Clarification
Call for Appointment
(670) 233-0081
Law Offices of Mailman & Kara, LLC
Corner of Beach Road and Cpl. Derence Jack R., Garapan, Saipan

NEED
You want it.
Samsung GALAXY S II
EPIC TOUCH
only $449*
4.5 inch Samsung Super AMOLED Plus Display
Android OS 2.3.4 (Gingerbread)
1.2 GHz Samsung Exynos C210 dual-core Processor
16 GB internal storage, up to 32 GB micro sd card
Bluetooth, Wifi, Music, Videos
Front & Rear facing Camera
Access to over 100,000 FREE Apps on the Google Android Market!
HTC
EVO DESIGN
4 inch Super LCD Display
Android OS 2.3 (Gingerbread) w/ HTC Sense UI
1.2 GHz Qualcomm Snapdragon S2 Processor
4 GB internal storage, up to 32 GB micro sd card
Bluetooth, Wifi, Music, Videos
Front & Rear facing Camera
Access to over 100,000 FREE Apps on the Google Android Market!
only $299*
ANDROID 500 PLAN
500 Local Voice Minutes
Unlimited Local SMS
Unlimited Android Data
ONLY $59 PER MONTH
CNMI's #1 Android Network
* Must sign up for 2 year agreement on Android 500 plan or higher.
Unlimited Android Data required with MORE PLAN • Single Plan Only • New Accounts Only • While supplies last.
IT&E
Life in Motion
Saipan: 682-4ITE (4483) • Tinian: 433-0210 • Rota: 532-3599 • Guam: 671-922-4ITE (4483) • www.ite.net

Delay sought in full implementation of renewable resources

» CUC, Georgetown say existing requirements not cost-effective

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and the consultant for the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission recommend a delay in the full implementation of renewable energy in the CNMI.

In their latest filing with the commission, CUC and Georgetown Consulting said they strongly support acquiring and developing renewable resources but believe that delaying its implementation to 2016 is in the public's best interest.

An initial technical assessment report issued by the National Renewable Energy Laboratories in July last year indicated that the Commonwealth has the potential for renewable energy.

However, according to CUC and Georgetown, that report does not quantify the potential renewable energy that may be developed using primary energy sources. More work needs to be undertaken to develop an achievable and comprehensive renewable energy development strategy for the CNMI, they said.

"We would expect that, with reasonable and timely funding, such additional work should be completed no later than 2015. An interim RPS [renewable portfolio standard] will assure the citizens of the CNMI that cost-effective and sustainable renewable energy development will be encouraged pursuant to established public policy of the CNMI," they said in their proposal to the CPUC.

The commission is expected to tackle and act on the proposal on Friday.

For CUC and Georgetown, the existing RPS standards are not in accordance with the standards established by state legislatures or regulatory commissions.

"The existing RPS standards are extremely aggressive, are not cost-effective and are inconsistent with state RPS standards established by mainland state legislatures or regulatory commissions," they said.

The CNMI's renewable portfolio standard establishes a stepped approach for the implementation of renewable energy, with an ultimate goal of achieving 80 percent of net electricity sales from renewable energy by 2014.

According to CUC and Georgetown, these standards are far more aggressive than found in the U.S. mainland. A review of the RPS requirements in the western U.S. reportedly shows the following goals: achieving the RPS maximum percentage of renewable resources by 2020 or 2025 except in California; the maximum percent of renewable resources is either 20 percent or 25 percent; and lower RPS requirements for small publicly owned utilities such as municipal utilities, rural electric cooperatives, and public utility districts.

Umang Glee Club seeks community's support for lunch fundraiser

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Koblerville Elementary School's award-winning Umang Glee Club is asking the community to support their luncheon fundraiser at the Oleai Pavillion on Saturday, Jan. 28, from 11am to 2pm.

Tickets are now available for the luncheon, which costs $5 per set of red rice, bistek, fried chicken, and coco.

Schobwuut Premier Consulting's Rose T. Ada-Hocog, an active Umang Glee Club parent, said yesterday that this fundraiser seeks to raise money to cover the meals of the 25 students when they compete in the annual Tumon Bay Music Festival in Guam next month.

Umang Glee Club won gold in the choir competition and was hailed the second best musical group after the Saipan Southern High School's Manta Ray Band during last year's festival. It will be defending its titles and will compete in other categories. The club will also serve as the opening act for the 2012 festival slated for March 2 to 11.

The group is under the direction of Karen Alla and John Jimeno.

Ada-Hocog said they need $4,000, which translates to about $150 per student, to ensure that they have enough to feed the children and not give them the same experience as last year's.

"What happened last time was we didn't have enough money so what we did was we brought with us boxes of soba and cereals to feed the kids," she told *Saipan Tribune*. "We're also fortunate to have food donations from D&Q and a family in Guam assisted us by cooking some food for the kids."

According to Ada-Hocog, they have already raised the money for the group's airfare and accommodation, much of it donated by various companies during the holiday season.

"We accept donations but we also want to teach these kids that if they want something, they've got to work hard for it. These kids have been working so hard and we want to make sure that they're rewarded properly," she said.

Ada-Hocog said they printed 250 tickets for Saturday's event. This will be the first of several luncheon fundraisers the club plans to do.

Ada-Hocog said the club is also busy with choir practice after school every day.

"They have to learn 15 new songs and, at the same time, they're going to be singing the song of Olomwaay band *She Gave Us Love*. We need to put those into musical score sheets so we need all the time to prepare the kids," said Ada-Hocog, adding that Olomwaay's Gus Kaipat will assist the club.

Ada-Hocog said that she and several others are taking care of the luncheon fundraiser as they don't want to further burden the students' parents.

"We want to make sure that the parents concentrate on getting that travel insurance so the kids can be covered while they're off-island," she explained.

Ada-Hocog said the community has been supportive of the Umang Glee Club, which is why they are appealing to them for their continued support.

"The people of the CNMI have been so supportive of them and we want to make them happy and bring home several medals from the festival. We're asking that they continue to help the kids and make this possible again," she said.

To buy tickets for the luncheon, to donate or for more information, call 989-1974, 237-3622 or 23.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Board of Parole
P.O. Box 502641 Saipan, MP 96950-2641
Tel. Nos.: (670) 664-3300 - 3302 • Fax: (670) 664-3310
E-mail: govbop@pticom.com

PUBLIC NOTICE
Executive Meeting

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy Inos, through the Board of Parole Office, and pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section II of the "Open Government Act of 1992". Notice is hereby given that a **Executive Meeting** is scheduled for **February 8, 2012, (Wednesday)** beginning at **10:00 A.M.,** at the **Board of Parole Office, Capitol Hill Road, Building No. 1216, Saipan.**

The following items are included in the agenda:

I. **Preliminary Matters**
 1. Call to order
 2. Roll Call
 3. Presence of Quorum
II. **Consent Items**
 1. Adoption of Agenda
 2. Adoption of Executive Meeting Minutes – June 22, 2011
III. **New Business**
 A) Chairman's Report
 B) Chief of Parole Report
 C) FY 2012 Budget Status
  a) Current Fund Status
  b) Current Allotment
  c) Calendar of Meetings & Hearings
 D) Board Policy on the Conduct of Executive Meeting and Parole Hearings
 E) Board Comments and Recommendation
  Re: To create the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Prison Industries Act of 2011
 F) Request for Comments on House Bill 17-249
IV. **Old Business**
 a. Dwayne Sibetang
 b. Parolee Victor Flores
V. **Miscellaneous**
 1. Other Matters
VI. **Adjournment**

If you have any question, please call the Parole Office at telephone number 664-3300 or 3302.

/s/ Ramon B. Camacho, Chairman — Date: 01/24/2012

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Board of Parole
P.O. Box 502641 Saipan, MP 96950-2641
Tel. Nos.: (670) 664-3300 - 3302 • Fax: (670) 664-3310
E-mail: govbop@pticom.com

PUBLIC NOTICE
Parole Hearing

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and LT. Governor Eloy Inos, through the Board of Parole Office, and pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section II of the "Open Government Act of 1992". Notice is hereby given that a **Parole Hearing** is scheduled for **February 9, 2012, (Thursday)** beginning at **8:30 A.M.,** at the **Vicente Taman Seman Building, Department of Corrections, Briefing/Training Room,** Susupe, Saipan.

The following items are included in the agenda:

I. **Preliminary Matters**
 1. Call to Order
 2. Roll Call
 3. Presence of Quorum
II. **Consent Items**
 1. Adoption of Agenda

III. Parole Application	BOP No.	Criminal Case No.
1. Andave M. Camacho	11-006	10-0179C
2. Rolando E. Pude	11-007	10-0211D
3. Alston H. Santos	11-008	10-0166E
IV. Re-Application	**BOP No.**	**Criminal Case No.**
1. Sanito Estrera	11-RA-001	08-0106

V. **Miscellaneous**
 1. Other Matters
VI. **Adjournment**

If you have any question, please call the Parole Office at telephone number 664-3300 or 3302.

/s/ Ramon B. Camacho, Chairman — Date: 01/24/2012

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB12-DPS-038

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: FEBRUARY 22, 2012 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF 100 DUTY UNIFORMS FOR POLICE OFFICERS AND 92 DUTY UNIFORMS FOR FIREFIGHTERS FOR THE ISLANDS OF SAIPAN, ROTA AND TINIAN"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, ***LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE*** BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESREVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ RAMON C. MAFNAS, COMMISSIONER, DEPT. OF PUBLIC SAFETY
/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN, DIRECTOR, P&S

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-12-006

PIPELINE PROJECT MNAGEMENT, DESIGN SERVICES & CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR THE 8-INCH DIESEL FUEL PIPELINE
(Emergency Procurement)

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced firms to provide Project management to include Design & Construction Management services for CUC's 8-Inch Diesel Fuel Pipeline Replacement Project in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Contractor shall furnish labor for the Design and Project Management Services for the Commonwealth Utilities Commission (CUC) from award to completion of the 8" diesel pipeline project, tasks shall include but not be limited to weekly, monthly inspection reports, design completion, construction and quality assurance oversight, site visits and coordination with the CUC, construction contractor and regulatory agencies.

The project involves replacement of an existing 8 inch aboveground petroleum pipeline (approx. 1 mile long) with an 8 inch underground pipeline from the Saipan seaport at the Mobil Oil Bulk Plant to the CUC Power Plant 1 and 2. The underground pipe installation portion of the project includes archeological monitoring, excavation/trenching, shoring, placement of bedding, welding and testing of pipe segments, pressure relief valves, high and low point drains, valve pits, pipe jacket, bridge crossing, pipe pigging, cathodic protection, based on 49 CFR part 195 and other applicable codes.

This project is being performed under a stipulated order (SO) being overseen by the U.S. EPA and Federal Judge. The project is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Interior (DOI), Office of the Insular Affairs.

The Scope-of-Work will be **e-mailed** upon request, to all interested Offerors, by the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, during working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.), Monday thru Friday, except government observed holidays.

The response to this RFP must be received with the title **"PIPELINE PROJECT MNAGEMENT, DESIGN SERVICES & CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR THE 8-INCH DIESEL FUEL PIPELINE"** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Jr. Purchasing Officer via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org and Ms. Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email mika.muna@cucgov.org no later than **January 27, 2012 at 10:00 AM**, (ChST) local time. Late submissions will not be considered.

All inquiries must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (CHST) local time on **January 25, 2012** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Jr. Purchasing Officer via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org; Technical Manager for Oil via email ed.char@cucgov.org; Managing Engineer, Power generation, via email venugopal.prabhakara@cucgov.org and Ms. Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email mika.muna@cucgov.org. CUC will respond to any questions and clarifications only to prospective Offerors who have registered with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division for the solicitation.

Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations. Contract will be awarded to the most responsive proposers, as adjudged by the Source Selection Committee (SSC). CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the Request for Proposal in the interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

ABE UTU MALAE
Executive Director

Native American tribe mulls $260M Fiji casino partnership

By CAROL LADWIG
SNOQUALMIE VALLEY RECORD STAFF REPORTER

For $1 million and some sharing of its expertise, the Snoqualmie Tribe could take part-ownership of a $290 million luxury resort and casino operation in Fiji.

The offer, from developer Larry Claunch's One Hundred Sands corporation, proposes a partnership with the tribe in developing a resort and casino on Denarau Island, on the west coast of Fiji, in early 2012, and possibly a second casino at Suva, on the southeast coast, to be built later.

It's an intriguing proposal, said Tribal Administrator Matt Mattson, for three reasons. One is that Claunch was recently awarded the country's first and only gambling license, giving him exclusive ownership of all gambling activities at the tourist destination.

"That steady stream of tourists presents a healthy market," Mattson said.

Also, "The tribe thinks it would be an excellent opportunity to assist and mentor another indigenous culture…as they get into operating a gaming facility in their country."

Finally, the timing was opportune. In July, Mattson said the tribal council had just finalized eight priorities for the coming year, and economic development through diversification was high on the list. Within a few months, Donald Sampson, the former executive director of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation in Oregon, met with the Snoqualmie council to suggest the partnership with One Hundred Sands as an investment opportunity.

Having nurtured the Snoqualmie Casino through three years of economic recession since its opening in November 2008, the tribe has valuable experience and expertise to share. The casino was not only the cheapest and biggest start-up venture in tribal casinos in Washington, he said, but it also has never lost money.

"The tribe has never not paid its bills," Mattson said. Revenue from the casino has still not met the initial projections from the 2006 plans, and the tribe, banking on higher returns, was forced to eliminate its police force, and cut staff salaries by 20 percent, among other budget cuts in 2008 and 2009. However, by 2010, the casino had experienced 40 percent growth, and was taking market share from its competitors while overall gaming activity in the Puget Sound area has decreased. Further, it plans to start making per capita distributions of tribal profits to its membership in the coming year.

ON THE NET
Learn about the Snoqualmie Tribe at http://www.snoqualmienation.com/

That experience alone could be extremely valuable to the Fiji casino, Mattson said. The tribe has also been asked for a $1 million investment, which he says "is very real money, but the risk-reward ratio seems reasonable."

Mattson visited the future casino site earlier this year, and three tribal council members, chairwoman Shelley Burch, Pat Barker, and Jake Repin, were there this week, to assess the possibilities. Mattson's own impressions of the opportunity were positive, although he was concerned about the stability of the government, headed by a president and parliament.

He believed the council delegation members were interested in the opportunity, but added, "I think this really has to be a decision the tribe makes."

Ousted tribe member Kanium Ventura has spoken against the investment which he claims Mattson initiated, and called for his dismissal over the issue.

"This is such a sad thing to invest overseas on something like this and we can not even pay our own debt to the bond holders," Ventura wrote in an e-mail message to the council and many others. "This is a Native American tribe, not a corporation, even though on some paperwork that is what our tribe is."

In response, Mattson said that Sampson gave his presentation to the full tribal council, not just himself, and said "I believe that economic diversification is in the long term best interests of the tribe."

Claunch, an American resident of Fiji, has been praised as a "savior" in local press, for his efforts in bringing jobs, education, and modern amenities to the area since 2004, when he built Nukudrau Island Resort, on the island he purchased in 2001.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

SHRM meeting today is cancelled

The meeting scheduled by the Society for Human Resource Management CNMI Chapter for today, Jan. 26, 2012, has been cancelled until further notice. SHRM will issue a notice about any further developments. For more information, contact Polly DLG. Masga at 237-5122 or e-mail shrmnmichapter@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

Bento lunch sale, garage sale at Kilili pavilion

The MPU U12 select team is having a fundraiser: They will be selling bento lunch and will host a garage sale at the Kilili Beach Pavilion on Saturday, Jan. 28, 2012, from 8am to 12pm. ***(PR)***

FSM consul general seeks meeting Friday

This is to inform the Federated States of Micronesia citizens residing on Saipan that FSM Consul General for Guam/CNMI Robert Ruecho will be on island this week and would like to meet with you this Friday, Jan. 27, at 4pm at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

MHS calendar of activities

The Marianas High School PTA is encouraging all Dolphin parents and guardians to attend its second quarterly meeting on Thursday, Feb. 2, at the school's new Dolphin Theater located in the T building, from 4pm to 6pm. Students will be released at 1pm on that day. The second quarter report cards will be distributed to parents after attending the PTA meeting. Important discussion will be on election of officers for 2012-2013, possible requirement of parent report card, update of ongoing projects, and presentation on PSS Core Standards Curriculum.

- Jan. 23-27: Final week
- Jan. 27: Last day of 2nd Quarter
- Jan. 30: Beginning of 3rd Quarter
- Feb. 2: Report card day, 4pm-6pm. Student dismissed at 1pm.

Half-day, PTSA meeting today at Kagman High

Kagman High School students will only have a half-day of classes today, Jan. 26, 2012. Dismissal time will be at 1pm. The purpose is to help students focus on the final exams assigned those days. This will also allow time for teachers to get grading and grade inputting done.

There will be a PTSA meeting today, Jan. 26, at 5:30pm in the school's cafeteria. For more information, call the KHS main office at 237-3840 or e-mail: kagmanhs@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

Deadline extended for Tinian scholarships

The Tinian Municipal Scholarship Board is informing applicants—new, continuing, and returning—that the submission deadline has been extended until Tuesday, Jan. 31, 2012. Continuing applicants submission requirements are an original transcript, class schedule, and memorandum of agreement. All new applicants that have yet to submit their requirement deficiencies are requested to comply on or before Jan. 31, 2012. For more information, contact the Tinian Municipal Scholarship office at (670)433-1800, 433-1802, or email tinianscholarship@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

OUR TWIST ON TURKEY. WHAT'S YOURS?
TURKEY MELT
7 grams of fat on 6" subs*
TURKEY B.L.T.
7 grams of fat on 6" subs*
TURKEY JALAPEÑO MELT
Subway® restaurants proudly feature Coca-Cola and Foremost products.
GUAM LOCATIONS:
Agat
AAFB Building #22026
AAFB Exchange
Barrigada
Dededo Shell Station
Guam Premier Outlets
Micronesia Mall
Mangilao
Naval Hospital
NEXCOM Bldg #20
NEXCOM Bldg #258
Tamuning
Tumon
Yigo Shell Station
SAIPAN LOCATIONS:
Gualo Rai
Chalan Piao
Paseo de Marianas, Garapan
SUBWAY eat fresh.®
www.subwaypacific.com
©2012 Doctor's Associates Inc. SUBWAY® is a registered trademark of Doctor's Associates Inc.
*Fat content refers to 6-inch sub on white or 9-grain wheat bread prepared according to standard recipe without cheese or condiments that contain fat.
"Coca-Cola" is a registered trademark of The Coca-Cola Company.

Delay in release of CNMI population demographics

The planned release of the rest of the 2010 U.S. Census demographics for the CNMI population will be delayed from late spring to later summer of this year, according to a statement issued yesterday by the Central Statistics Division of the Department of Commerce.

According to officials of the U.S. Census Bureau through normal communication, "… this informs you that we are delaying the release of the Island Areas' Demographic Profiles to summer 2012. We had hoped to produce them this spring, but due to unforeseen circumstances and the need for rigorous review we decided to wait until the summer."

This also delays the same releases for Guam, U.S. Virgin Islands, and American Samoa.

The population demographics include detailed data on housing, labor force, educational backgrounds, and ethnicities, among others.

This delay comes after the US Census Bureau officially released the village population counts or the *Supplemental Population Counts early this year.*

For information on the total CNMI population as well as population at the village level, visit the Department of Commerce's Central Statistics Division website at:

http://commerce.gov.mp/divisions/central-statistics/inside-the-central-statistics-division/

For information on the total population as well as population at the village levels for the other Island Areas (i.e. Guam), visit the US Census Bureau website at:

http://2010.census.gov/news/press-kits/island-areas/island-areas.html. ***(PR)***

US Immigration judge finds alien removable

The U.S. Immigration Court on Saipan heard 10 removal cases on Tuesday and found one respondent removable from the Commonwealth.

Judge Clarence M. Wagner of Honolulu conducted the proceedings via videoconference.

Saipan Tribune learned that Wagner continued the hearings on the nine cases to a later date.

One respondent, Elvis Bisela Tibong, a Filipino, came late for the hearing. He told the court he is sick.

The judge determined that Tibong is removable.

Tibong, however, informed the court he is going to appeal. The judge gave him time to file his appeal.

In February 2009, Superior Court associate judge David A. Wiseman ordered Tibong to appear in court for deportation hearing.

Wiseman issued the order after the then CNMI Immigration Division filed a deportation case against Tibong for allegedly overstaying in the Commonwealth for over a year.

According to Superior Court documents, Tibong used to work on Rota then moved to Saipan. He worked as a farmer then became a mason. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

MCCASHLAND-DELEON GUERRERO NUPTIALS

A winter solstice wedding in Las Vegas

John and Mary Louise McCashland are flanked by her family, from left, Matthew, Eve, Ed, and Michael DeLeon Guerrero

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

On Dec. 21, 2011, in Las Vegas, Nevada, Mary Louise O. DeLeon Guerrero wed Air Force 1st Lt. Johnathon E. McCashland in an intimate family ceremony.

Mary Louise is the daughter of Edward and Eve DeLeon Guerrero of Koblerville, Saipan. John is the son of Roger and Jill McCashland of Richmond, Indiana.

1st Lt. McCashland, who will become Capt. McCashland in February 2012, is a fighter pilot in the U.S. Air Force and has recently transitioned from flying the HH 60 Pave Hawk Helicopters to fly KC 135 Stratotankers.

This winter, the newlywed couple will move from Las Vegas to Peoria, Illinois, where John has accepted a position as an engineer for Caterpillar Inc., at their world headquarters and Mary Louise plans to continue her graduate work. ***(PR)***

From left, Roger, Jill, and John McCashland and Mary Louise, Ed, and Eve DeLeon Guerrero

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Jan. 26, 1999

EQ shuts Aquabest

Aquabest Water Company has been ordered closed by the Division of Environmental Quality after a random testing showed that its bottled water is not safe to drink. But Aquabest said management is now carrying out corrective measures so that DEQ can give them the go signal to resume operation. "We want to assure our clients that we are doing everything to solve the problem," said Mikko Magsaysay, general manager. When Aquabest began operation in June 1998, it immediately got a big market share as it offered more affordable price for its bottled water, thus, forcing the rival firms to lower their rates too.

Auditor urges govt to recover $961,122

The Office of Public Auditor has identified a total of $961,122 in improperly spent monies that once recovered would help the government improve its financial condition. The amount accumulated because audit recommendations were not properly implemented, according to Public Auditor Leo LaMotte, who suggested that an official from the Governor's Office be designated to pursue the closure of open or resolved recommendations. The report showed funds were either misused by government officials and agencies or paid to salaries and other services contracts.

Jan. 26, 2000

Legislature, CUC set stage for Saipan power plant bidding

Lawmakers and utility officials yesterday agreed to forge ahead with the much-delayed power project for Saipan, this time by working closely together during the forthcoming bidding process that the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation will undertake by next month. In a meeting between members of the Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications from both houses of the Legislature and CUC Board, questions on the controversial project were raised, while mapping out next course of action by the government-owned utility corporation. Senate Vice President Thomas P. Villagomez, PUTC chair in the upper house, said the Legislature had asked the board to get its inputs and recommendations on the project before it invites bidders to offer proposals for a 60-megawatt power plant.

DPH seeks more funds to match fed grants

The Department of Public Health is seeking a $33.9 million budget for Fiscal Year 2001 as the Medicaid Program continues to be under funded due to budgetary constraints. DPH Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez yesterday said the CNMI government is having difficulty in matching the federal grant of close to $1.9 million. Currently, the department is only able to provide close to $200,000 in local funds. A huge amount of money for medical referral program has been saved with the hiring of specialists from the U.S. mainland but some of the cases that they have recently for treatment in U.S. hospitals have been serious illnesses which are very expensive.

Jan. 26, 2001

Rota runway project ready by July

The Commonwealth Ports Authority disclosed construction works at the Rota International Airport runway is progressing well and that the project will be completed according to the original schedule presented by its contractor. Executive director Carlos H. Salas said re-sealing of the island's air transport facility's runway started on time, adding that construction work is running smoothly. He said the refurbished runway would be ready by July this year. The project is being carried out at a cost of $2.79 million by Nippon Hodo Construction Limited, which emerged as the apparent low bidder. Its bid includes remarking, regrooving and rehabilitation works at the island's airport runway.

WSR opens new food facility

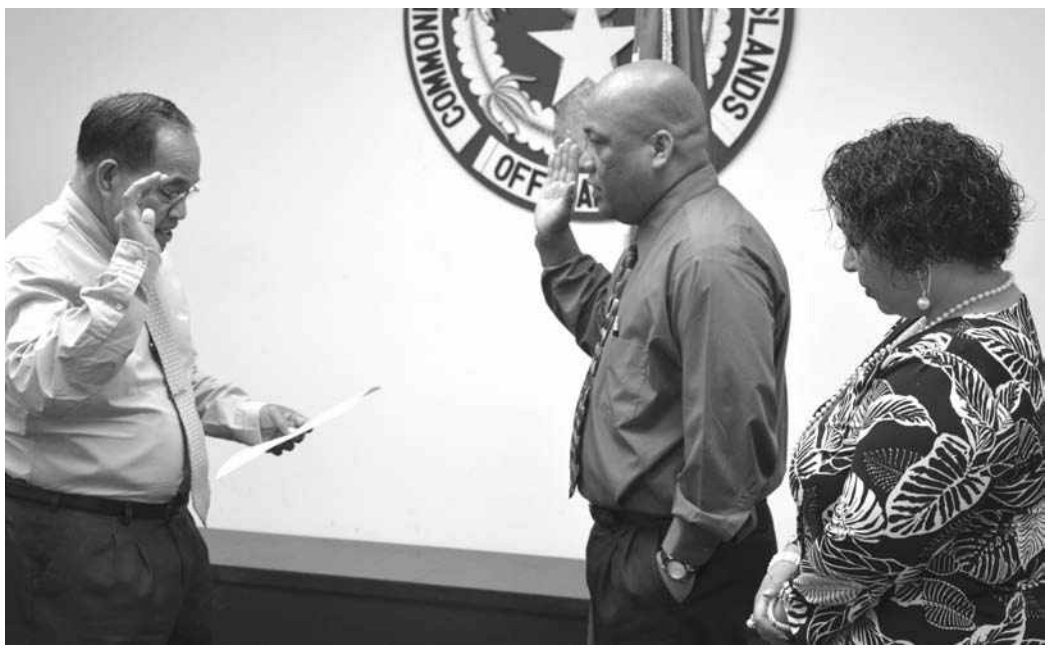
William S. Reyes Elementary School served yesterday meals to its students for the first time at its newly-constructed cafeterium with, not surprisingly, an eager number of takers wanting to set foot on the $543,000-worth facility. The WSR food court is the Public School System's newest addition to the series of Capital Improvement Projects targeted to reach completion this year, spearheaded by the State Board of Education CIP Committee. PSS officials and construction managers gathered yesterday for a brief ribbon cutting ceremony that paid recognition to the successfully-formed partnership between the BOE, the school system, Department of Public Works, legislators, and North Pacific Builders, the project contractor.

Island Snapshots

TOP BUSINESSMAN

Saipan Chamber of Commerce's 2011 Businessperson of the Year Jim Arenovski, second from left, receives his award from the previous year's awardee Robert Jones of Triple J Enterprises, second from right, during the business organization's 2012 board installation dinner at Fiesta Resort & Spa on Saturday. Also in photo are Chamber executive director Richard Pierce, left, and president Douglas Brennan, right.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



SWORN-IN

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, left, administers the oath of office to newly confirmed Commerce Secretary Sixto K. Igisomar while his wife, Cathy, looks on yesterday at the conference room of the Office of the Governor on Capital Hill, Saipan.

ANGEL DEMAPAN/OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Newly sworn-in Commerce Secretary, Sixto K. Igisomar is joined by his wife, Cathy, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Cov - Saipan), Department of Commerce officials and friends for a souvenir photo shortly after taking the Oath of Office at the Office of the Governor's conference room.

ANGEL DEMAPAN/OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

INSPIRING STORY

CLARISSA V. DAVID

A scene from the Friends of the Arts production of *The Miracle Worker,* the story about how Helen Keller learned about language and discipline through teacher Annie Sullivan, shows main actors Frank Gibson as Capt. Arthur Keller, Ann Calvert as Keller, and Laura Kyonka as Sullivan sharing the stage with other cast members during Sunday's matinee show.

PALM WEAVING

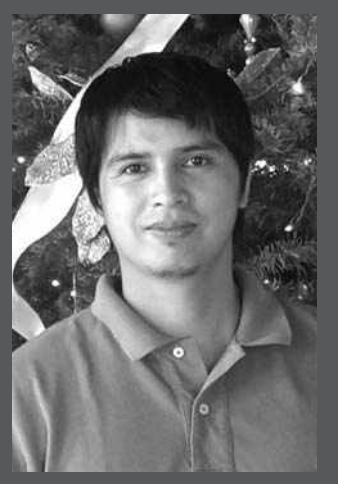
Jay-R Marciano, second left, teaches the art of palm weaving to Korean students from Moon Deok Elementary School at the Sugar King Park on Jan. 19.

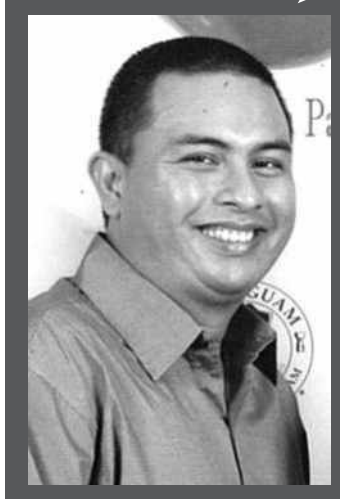
CLARISSA V. DAVID

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

Happy, happy birthday Mico Usi Jr.! May all your dreams come true. Stay cool and happy. God bless you always. We love you! Greetings from Resalie, Aira, Whay, Mel, Mhabie, MU Boys, and your Light & Salt family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO





Belated happy birthday greetings to Kaegel Taitano, who celebrated his birthday on Jan. 25, 2012! Kick off your shoes, take a break, crank the tunes, dance and shake, light the candles, cut the cake. Make it a day, that's simply great! Happy birthday Kae, we love you always!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday to Manny Kisa, the best dad in the whole world! Thank you Daddy for giving us everything and thank you for the love and care! We love you so much! Greetings come from your son Joseph, Joshua, and Mommy.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Opinion

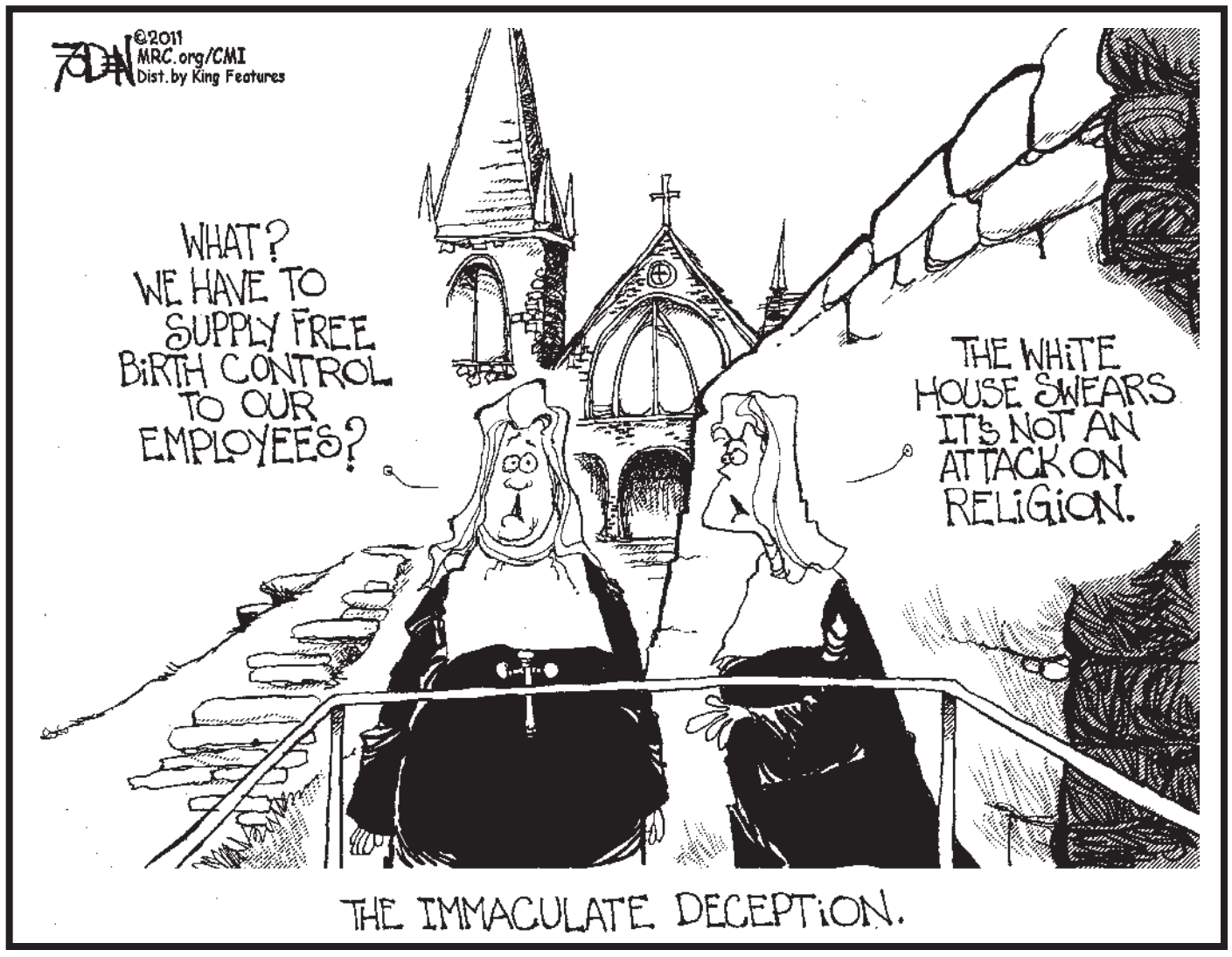
Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXII, Issue No. 21

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association


©2011 MRC.org/CMI Dist. by King Features
WHAT? WE HAVE TO SUPPLY FREE BIRTH CONTROL TO OUR EMPLOYEES?
THE WHITE HOUSE SWEARS IT'S NOT AN ATTACK ON RELIGION.
THE IMMACULATE DECEPTION.

By KEVIN HORRIGAN
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

Kevin Horrigan is a columnist for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch*. Readers may write to him at:* St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, 900 North Tucker Blvd., St. Louis, Mo. 63101, or e-mail him at khorrigan@post-dispatch.com.*

How Democrats got their pockets picked

It's hard to read Thomas Frank's new book, "Pity the Billionaire," without being astonished at what utter nincompoops Democrats are.

This surely was not Frank's primary intent. The book is subtitled, "The Hard-Times Swindle and the Unlikely Comeback of the Right," so it's pretty clear where Frank coming from. But the obvious subtext is how, in a two-party system, Democrats allowed Republicans to pull off the greatest cross-dressing scam since RuPaul became America's Drag Queen.

Frank is a journalist and polemicist best known for his 2004 book "What's the Matter with Kansas?" that explored how Republicans in his home state had used social issues to persuade people to vote against their own economic best interests.

In "Pity the Billionaire," he examines how Republicans—with help from some Democrats—created policies that led to the financial collapse of 2008, the Great Recession, massive income inequality and the gutting of the middle class. And then the Democrats sat back as the GOP reinvented itself as populist defenders of free-market capitalism.

"Now there is nothing really novel about the idea that free markets are the very essence of freedom," Frank writes. "What is new is the glorification of this idea at the precise moment when free-market theory has proven itself to be a philosophy of ruination and fraud. The revival of the Right is an extraordinary as it would be if the public had demanded dozens of new nuclear power plants in the days after the Three Mile Island disaster; if we had reacted to Watergate by making Richard Nixon a national hero."

For Frank, a key moment in this bizarre turn of events came on Feb. 19, 2009, less than a month after President Barack Obama's inauguration. The TARP bailout bill proposed by President George W. Bush and endorsed by candidate Obama had been passed the previous fall. The new president had just signed the $787 billion economic stimulus bill.

On that day, CNBC business reporter Rick Santelli stood on the floor of the Chicago Board of Trade and began ranting about the unfairness of it all. Not the bank bailout, mind you, but the 6.3 percent of the TARP program intended to help people modify their underwater mortgages.

As it turned out, this program hasn't been particularly successful because banks refused to go along. But on that Feb. 19, Santelli was incensed at the unfairness of it all—that "losers" with bad mortgages might be helped and that the salt-of-the-earth traders who were cheering him on were being punished for being successful and prudent.

Santelli's rant went viral on the Internet. So-called tea party rallies began to be held. "Your mortgage is not my problem," read a sign at one of them.

Self-promoters seized them as a way to cash in—a fine conservative tradition, Frank writes—and the right-wing foundations funneled money to them. What could have been, and should have been, populist outrage against the people whose greed brought

See HOW on Next Page

Giffords' adieu at Obama's SOTU 2012

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergarajr2031@aol.com) is a former PSS teacher and is currently writing from the campus of Shenyang Aerospace University in China.

It was a year ago when an assassin put a bullet through Gabrielle Giffords' head at a public meeting with her constituency in the 8th Congressional District of the State of Arizona. Known as a "Blue Dog Democrat" who identifies herself as a "former Republican," Giffords was a target of Republican ire. She was serving her third term in office that she retained in the last election even with a Sarah Palin PAC backing her opponent's challenge.

On that fateful day a year ago, one of the casualties was a vet's wife who came to the meeting to protest Giffords voting record characterized by the media as "liberal." The widowed protester's anger has not abated; he recently said that Gabrielle should not be in Congress.

The congresswoman commemorated the first anniversary of her near fatal incident by vacating her seat in Congress, officially to take effect this week. Her miraculous medical recovery nevertheless shows a considerable diminution of her alertness and ability, and she saw fairness to her constituency in relinquishing what heretofore might very well be known as "Giffords' seat." Congress, in her honor, will fast track a bill she sponsored before she leaves Congress.

Emerging icon Gabrielle Dee "Gabby" Giffords, who shared a tight hug with Barack, was seated with colleagues for the last time to hear the President's third SOTU while husband, a former astronaut and flight commander of the space shuttles Discovery and Endeavor, was seated with first lady Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden's entourage.

In the current intense GOP tussle between Mitt Romney and Newt Gingrich, with the national GOP still hoping for a third candidate to emerge (of those still in the running, Ron Paul is too libertarian and Rick Santurom is preaching to the choir on homophobia and anti-abortion), Obama remains unopposed in the Democratic ticket.

Obama has maintained a centrist position bailing out corporate Wall Street America while dogging al-Qaida operatives, winding down the war in Iraq and Afghanistan but flexing muscles in a containment policy on China, guarding the global oil spigot while retaining preeminent monetary exchange status of the U$ currency.

Obama's theme held no sudden surprises. The President called for a fair shot at economic success for everyone at a time when 1 percent of the U.S. population has a total higher asset than the remaining 99 percent. This embarrassing inequality in distributive justice stands in contrast with a nation that prides itself of a broad middle class as its economic, political, and cultural strength.

Obama's invitatory vision is of "America that leads the world in educating its people, that attracts high-tech manufacturing and high-paying jobs, that has a future where we're in control of our own energy, and our security and prosperity aren't so tied to unstable parts of the world, an economy built to last, where hard work pays off, and responsibility is rewarded."

To boost debt-ridden economy tops Obama's priority with a perspective on strengthening the middle class. Obama's familiar four beats focus on domestic manufacturing, green energy, competent workers and pragmatic values.

With cheap manufacturing elsewhere, the first beat follows Japan's protection of its domestic consumer product makers. Japanese tourists buy toothpaste and detergent on Saipan that Nippon's costly protected sector is manufacturing.

The 3 percent of the U.S. population involved in manufacturing needs upgrading of competence and high tech sophistication to be globally competitive. The classic story of Apple wanting an iPhone cover that is scratch-resistant tells of outsourcing elsewhere as the engineers and workers needed were not readily available or affordable in country, but were instantly assembled at less cost in China!

The obvious task of educating the workers to meet technology upgrade and competitive finances is obvious. Obama reiterated his call at the Honolulu APEC for all the nations to "play by the rules" (directed at China), and now is leveling the playing field at home so equity is comprehensively spread out.

Obama preached. Americans work hard and play by the rules, he intoned, so the government and the financial system must do likewise. "It's time to apply the same rules from top to bottom: No bailouts, no handouts, and no copouts. An America built to last insists on responsibility from everybody."

This will not come easy. The global economy does not respect national priorities. Tech support for my U.S. laptop is in India, and a colleague changed a U.S. airline booking date talking to a voice in Baguio, the Philippines.

Responsibility from everybody echoes Reagan's satirical comment that there is no such thing as free lunch! That tone cuts deep in the CNMI where we excel in entitlement but are short on the sense of responsibility. Shared responsibility does not require a national passport; it only requires fairness and is universal.

Giffords paid dearly for walking her talk. There are those who think Obama walks his talk too fast and aim to silence his voice; some want him to quit dallying and hurry. SUTO 2012 indicates an Obama second term, where like Republican Abe Lincoln, government will not do what citizens themselves can do for themselves. Let's hope the trigger-happies, like the one who already made Giffords' acquaintance, will stay away, or be kept at bay!

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

A 30,000-foot perspective can position your business as the best and only choice

By RIK VILLEGAS
Special to the Tribune

Rik coaches business owners to develop consistently profitable businesses that can operate without them. He can be contacted at RikVillegas@gmail.com, and you can comment on this article at http://rikv.blogspot.com.

I was working with over 20 clients in the U.S. when I stumbled onto the concept of building strategic alliances around moments called "Life Transitions." The need for goods and services is intensified during such events as marriage, parenting, moving, and death. By developing a collaborative process among my clients, they were able to achieve increased brand awareness, more referrals, and ultimately greater sales and profits.

I've been developing a website for several months that will provide businesses with an automated, lead generation system by focusing on over 17 major Life Transitions most people will experience in their life's journey. The goal is to position clients in each Life Transition as a trusted professional who offers outstanding solutions to the challenges experienced by people during each transition.

In the next few columns, I want to share a powerful concept about how you can position your business to become the best and only choice to your target customers, even if you're in a crowded competitive group. These articles are actually a chapter in a book that I am contributing as an author with management guru Brian Tracy. The book is scheduled to be published this summer and the following is the first of four articles that will comprise the chapter…

Flying in the Air Force provided an interesting three-dimensional perspective that opened my mind to the big picture in business. While flying between Abilene and San Angelo, Texas, I could see both cities on either side of the cockpit. The 90-mile distance between the two cities would normally take me about one and a-half hours to drive; however, flying between them from a 30,000-foot perspective allowed me to see both cities at once.

Time seemed to slow down as I looked down at the speck of cars traveling on a thread of road because the cars seemed to be moving at an ant's pace, and I could easily see most of the landmarks and intersections they had passed or would eventually encounter. Their limited perspective from ground level only allowed them to see a few thousand feet ahead or behind them, and it would take more than an hour before they could catch their first glimpse of their final destination.

Driving is a two-dimensional process that can be planned with a map to travel from a starting point to the end location. There are intermediate transition points of reference such as geographic landmarks, cities, and intersections that act as reference points to gauge a traveler's progress.

Business planning is similarly looked at as a two-dimensional planning process that has a starting point and a final destination. Milestones along the route help gauge the progress of the business as transition points are passed.

Part of the planning process includes identifying groups of potential customers in various target markets, and then developing a strategy to effectively entice them to buy from your business. The marketing section typically takes a two-dimensional approach by looking at individuals who have an immediate need for your product. The plan also tends to use marketing messages and media that are very similar and easily accessible to your competition.

Using the driving analogy with your prospects moving along a road that symbolizes a timeline, they would approach a busy intersection where you and your competitors are gathered. As they continue to move through the intersection, all of your competitors are trying to grab your attention, similar to a political group gathered at an intersection, by waving brightly colored signs and screaming for the prospects to stop and buy from them. This creates confusion because of the numerous and similar messages that are promoted in the same media, and it positions each business as a commodity that is very similar to every other business vying for their attention.

What difference would it make in your business if your message was the first and only one they noticed, and you and your staff were viewed as trusted professionals who could best satisfy their wants and needs? Obviously, that's a dream position to be in, and next week you'll learn how it can become a reality for your business if you look at your future customers from a 30,000-foot perspective, and understand how you can distinctively position your business before they need what you have to offer.

Letters to the Editor

Stop the honeymoon mentality

In times of a downward spiral in government revenue and increasing cost of operations, we need to ask the question of those who put together the revenue estimate and cost budget of this government. In order to understand why the fiscal year 2013 budget is being pegged at $102 million, some explaining is in order. Prior to compiling the budget data information from the budget call submission request, we need to check the governor whether we are just folding up the same scenario of FY 2012 as there appears to be no urgency for drastic actions and sustainable solutions to our current dilemma. In the private sector, the CEO, when faced with sagging profitability, the simplest and fastest way that he tackles this matter is to ask the question and demand those in charge of the resources of the corporation to come up with a proven plan of action or solutions. If the managers who are placed in charge of operations could not turn the course of profitability for the corporation, these employees are given the pick slips. There is no room for failure in a diminishing business environment where profits are at stake. My point is, the governor should man up and do the right thing. We can no longer wait for magical results to happen or for matters to resolve itself, as this has reached a point in time when something must be done. If any appointee could not perform, the governor should dismiss such appointee for unsatisfactory performance and there is no other option. Using the same point, we could not fathom the idea that three Retirement Fund principals are on their way to a conference in Orlando, Florida for lessons about investment.

The government is pretty much a big check-writing machine because we deal almost entirely with payments for goods and services. But if we begin with identifying agencies that produce revenues, we can fully support the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's plea for a united effort in support of the tourism industry in the CNMI. For example, we can start with the Mariana Visitors Authority and the Department of Commerce. Ask the gentlemen or women in these offices a simple question: What plans do you have to earn revenue for the CNMI government? Let's see what these officials have in mind. We have print and broadcast media that would gladly carry the conversation for all to assimilate and enjoy. Then this would be followed by all other agencies explaining how they will reduce the cost of operation. We only need to hear or read three ideas from each of the governor's appointees. Can you imagine how many ideas we could draw from these appointees if we get all of them to discuss their areas or work operations? For example, if we have 18 departments and agencies, we could have at least 54 ideas. If a department and agency has a deputy director, you would also add the input of that official. So, let's start with this. If the governor could not decide on who to remove for poor work performance, the people would man up for him and we would do the job for him in removing the poor performing government official that this government is wasting valuable financial resources on.

Once we finish with the governor's appointees, we can suggest that the Legislature enact legislation to appropriate funds for a "bounty" program. Thinking that there is no such thing as a free lunch, the government should begin giving incentives by paying people for ideas on how to save this government. If the CNMI government would see fit to pay appointees who are failing, it is ripe for this government to consider making good with people's suggestion not connected to any government entity. I know of good intentioned and high caliber people who have good ideas to improve the MVA, but these same people are also asking, "Why should I participate when one is being paid well to do this job?" So, as you can see, it works both ways. Maybe this is one way of taking up the Chamber's recommendation for a united effort to boost the tourism industry.

We need to stop the honeymoon mentality in government and begin the process of timing out those who could not make good on their capacity, at the same time encouraging those that really make the effort to raise the bar of honest work and fruition.

Francisco R. Agulto
Chalan Kanoa, Saipan

What's Article 12 got to do with it?

Efrain Camacho writes that Article 12 is somehow causing foreclosures in the CNMI. People borrowed money and couldn't make the payments—what does Article 12 have to do with that? The U.S. mainland has many more foreclosures per capita than the CNMI, and as we all know, there is no Article 12 in the mainland.

There were 4 million foreclosures in the U.S. mainland in 2011, and millions more foreclosures elsewhere in the world, as working people had trouble paying their mortgages. Anywhere in the world, except maybe Efrain's fantasy world, anyone who doesn't pay back their mortgage has to give up their house, with or without Article 12.

Efrain claims that "there are only a few NMDs with means to buy land," but if only NMDs can buy and sell land, then how could NMDs be unable to buy land? This also doesn't make sense. On the other hand, if anyone and everyone is invited to buy land in the CNMI, then there truly will be outsiders pricing NMDs out of the market.

Efrain says that Article 12 is hurting NMDs. Maybe it's hurting a few privileged NMDs who want to do business with real estate developers. But Article 12 is not for those privileged few, but for the majority of NMDs who want to live on their own land, and not become renting tenants on their own island.

We get it. Real estate developers would have an easier time selling vacation homes in the CNMI if we didn't have Article 12. But the laws of the CNMI are here to protect us, the people of the CNMI, and not a few real estate developers. We need our island to live on, not for outsiders' vacation homes. Trying to somehow connect unfortunate foreclosures with Article 12 won't change that.

Diego C. Blanco
As Lito, Saipan

HOW

From Page 10

the house down was subtly turned into protests against "elitists" (i.e., Democrats) who were attacking "free markets" (i.e., cracking down on banks and health care costs).

The tea party, Frank says, became defenders of a Darwinian version of free markets intended to "trample the weak."

Frank spends a great deal of attention on the various absurdities peddled at the time by Glenn Beck on Fox News—"bogus populism shores up ironclad elitism and ... bogus enlightenment serves the most grotesque form of dupery."

But Beck and his ilk could not have gotten away with it had (a) people been more discerning about what they were hearing and (b) had Democrats mounted some kind of response.

As to (a), Frank quotes from one of the tea party's favorite movies, "Network," where the mad-as-hell-not-going-to-take-it-anymore newscaster Howard Beale explains, "We deal in illusions, man. None of it is true. But you people sit there day after day ... we're all you know."

As to (b), the question of where the Democratic response was, that's still a mystery. Aside from perhaps Elizabeth Warren, architect of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and now a U.S. Senate candidate in Massachusetts, no Democrat has been particularly successful in articulating where the blame belongs.

Until recently, President Obama floated above it all, finding common cause with Wall Street and health insurance firms, trying to compromise with people who were elected not to compromise, playing his preferred "long game," avoiding intemperate language.

This allowed the GOP to retake control of the House and pass themselves off as defenders of the average guy. And anyone who has the temerity to point out how stupid you'd be to fall for that is labeled an "elitist." As the British political scientists David Runciman has noted, "There is nothing voters hate more than having things explained to them as though they were idiots."

Republicans understand that. Democrats aren't very good at it. If they hope to avoid catastrophe in November, they'd better figure it out.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°

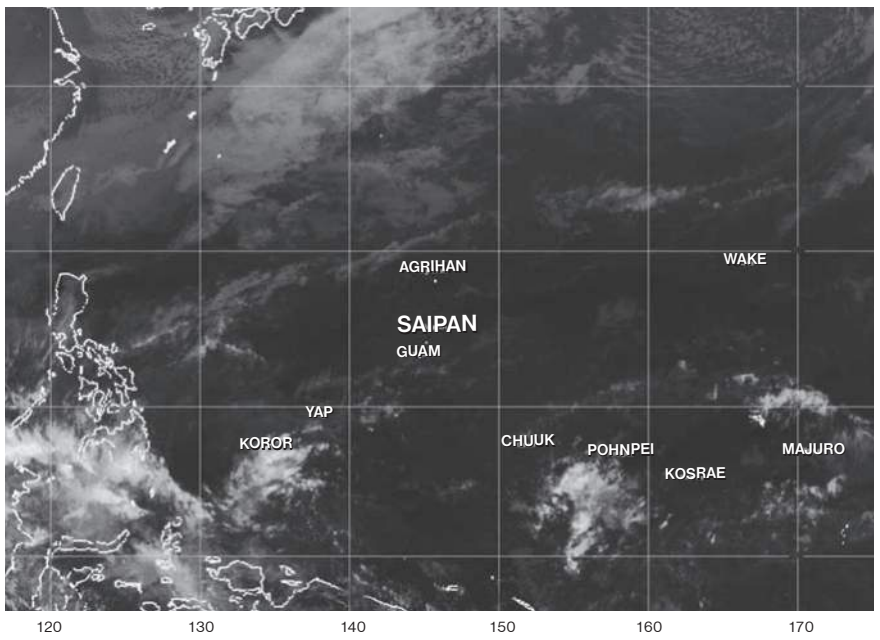
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲83	▼77
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼78
Yap	Showers	▲87	▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲88	▼79
Pohnpei	Showers	▲86	▼80
Kosrae	Showers	▲86	▼80
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼79

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲70	▼64
Beijing	Sunny	▲32	▼12
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	▲65	▼58
Honolulu	Showers	▲81	▼69
London	Partly Cloudy	▲47	▼30
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲80	▼52
Manila	Cloudy	▲85	▼74
Melbourne	Sunny	▲87	▼59
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲80	▼68
New York	Mostly Cloudy	▲43	▼41
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲47	▼37
Paris	Sunny	▲48	▼31
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲46	▼34
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲59	▼34
Salem	Showers	▲49	▼30
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲64	▼50
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲39	▼20
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲44	▼30
Washington, DC	Showers	▲50	▼48

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2012
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A nearly stationary front extends west-southwestward from 25N168E to beyond 130E at 21N. Cloudiness and patchy rain are found along and up to 150 miles north of this boundary. Trade-wind troughs are producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms south of Koror within 160 miles of a line from 3N133E to 7N137E and south of Pohnpei south of a line from 6N153E to 6N160E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers south of Majuro within 130 miles of a line from 3N168E to 3N178E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

3:36 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
10:09 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
4:16 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.8 Feet
9:22 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:47 AM	6:12 PM
Friday	6:47 AM	6:12 PM
Saturday	6:47 AM	6:13 PM
Sunday	6:47 AM	6:13 PM
Monday	6:47 AM	6:14 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	8:31 AM	8:46 PM
Friday	9:10 AM	9:35 PM
Saturday	9:47 AM	10:22 PM
Sunday	10:25 AM	11:10 PM
Monday	11:03 AM	11:59 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 11, 2012

DEPARTURES

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
C05062	2:10am	2:40am	1, 5
SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)			
C05064	4:15am	4:50am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
C05064	4:15am	5:45am	1, 5 via ROP
C05070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
C05068	8:25am	9:15am	Daily
C05074	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C05076	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05078	6:50pm	7:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05078	7:00pm	7:50pm	3, 6
C05072	9:55pm	10:45pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05072	10:05pm	10:55pm	3, 6
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
DL285	6:35am	9:15am	1, 3, 5, 7
DL297	4:25pm	7:15pm	Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)			
OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	Daily via KIX
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)			
OZ608	3:35am	7:05am	4, 7
DL581	4:10am	7:30am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C05070/191	4:35am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:00am	10:25pm	Daily via NRT
C05068/183	8:25am	9:25pm	2, 5 via GUM
C05068/183	8:25am	9:40pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
C05076/183	3:10pm	9:25pm	2, 5 via GUM
C05076/183	3:10pm	9:40pm	1, 4, 7 via GUM
C05076/193	3:10pm	11:00pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN
C05072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 5, 7 via GUM
C05072/PR111	10:05pm	7:50am+1	3, 6 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
OZ606/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C05076/147	3:10pm	10:25pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/723	3:20pm	10:30pm	Daily via ICN
OZ604/749	3:20pm	10:50pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
C05064	5:15am	5:45am	1, 5
ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)			
C05062	3:10am	3:45am	1, 5
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
C05062	2:10am	3:45am	1, 5 via ROP
C05069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
C05071	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C05073	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05075	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C05077	5:30pm	6:20pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05077	5:40pm	6:30pm	3, 6
C05079	8:35pm	9:25pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05079	8:45pm	9:35pm	3, 6
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:40pm	1:15am+1	Daily
DL286	7:40pm	12:20am+1	2, 4, 6, 7
OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN			
OZ120	9:50pm	2:20am+1	Daily
SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	3, 6
DL580	10:10pm	2:55am+1	4, 7
GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
DL172/288	8:00am	1:15am+1	Daily via NRT
C0190/5077	10:55am	6:30pm	3, 6 via GUM
C0190/5079	10:55am	9:35pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C05071	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0192/5071	10:25pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
C0184/5071	11:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ704/603	11:40pm	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
C0184/5071	11:59pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM
HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0180/5071	11:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

Business

Megaupload founder joked about his 'hacker' past

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—Two years ago, Megaupload founder Kim Dotcom joked in emails with his new neighbors in New Zealand about his bad-boy reputation before telling them his criminal past was behind him and he was coming to the country with good intentions.

"I am a former hacker" who was once convicted of insider trading, he wrote, before going on to say "In all seriousness: My wife, two kids and myself love New Zealand and 'We come in peace.'"

Dotcom's emails came to light Wednesday, the same day a New Zealand judge denied him bail following his arrest on U.S. accusations of copyright infringement and a U.S. official confirmed the arrest of a fifth member of his company.

Judge David McNaughton in Auckland denied Dotcom bail pending a hearing Feb. 22 on his possible extradition to face trial in the United States, saying Dotcom poses a flight risk. Dotcom, 38, insists he is innocent and poses no flight risk.

New Zealand police arrested three other Megaupload employees last week on U.S. accusations they facilitated millions of illegal downloads of films, music and other content, costing copyright holders at least $500 million in lost revenue. McNaughton is expected to make bail rulings on the three later this week or early next week.

In Washington, a U.S. Justice Department official said Dutch police have arrested a fifth suspect—software programmer Andrus Nomm, 32, a citizen of Estonia and a resident of both Turkey and Estonia. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because the case is still pending.

In New Zealand, Dotcom's neighbor Kevin Crossley said Dotcom cut an imposing figure when he took a lease on the $24 million luxury mansion in their sleepy neighborhood of Coatesville, near Auckland. Crossley said he never met Dotcom, but he would see him zooming past in luxury cars when he went horse riding.

Dotcom sent emails to Crossley's wife France Komoroski and other neighbors, joking that "a criminal neighbor like me" could help them with insider stock tips and tax fraud. But then he turned serious.

"Fifteen years ago I was a hacker and 10 years ago I was convicted for insider trading," he wrote. "Hardly the kind of crimes you need to start a witch hunt for. Since then I have been a good boy, my criminal records have been cleared, and I created a successful Internet company that employs 100+ people."

Dotcom first developed a reputation as a computer hacker in his native Germany, where he was born Kim Schmitz.

Later, in 2002, he received a 20-month suspended sentence after being found guilty of manipulating stock prices to earn himself $1.1 million.

The flamboyant Dotcom also made headlines after the terrorist attacks of 9/11 when he offered a $10 million reward on his website for information leading to the capture of al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden.

AP

In this Jan. 20, 2012 photo released by the Government Information Service in Hong Kong, the entrance of Megaupload's office is shown inside a hotel room in Hong Kong. Customs officials said they seized more than $42.5 million in assets from the Hong Kong based company.

IMF and Germany at odds over how to rescue Europe

WASHINGTON (AP)—Global leaders are sharply at odds over how to rescue Europe from its escalating debt crisis: Should they focus more urgently on economic growth or on budget cuts?

The disagreement presents another obstacle to solving the region's financial crisis, and it pits one of the world's most important lenders against Europe's strongest economy.

The International Monetary Fund said Tuesday that encouraging growth should be policymakers' highest priority. It issued the warning on a day when the lending organization cut its estimates for global growth this year and predicted a recession in Europe.

But Germany, the economic engine of Europe, is afraid it could get stuck paying much of the cost to bail out its weaker European neighbors. It is pushing instead for budget cuts, which the IMF says could weaken growth further and undermine market confidence.

The IMF is already lending to the region's bailout fund and has a lead role in monitoring the progress that nations such as Greece make in reducing their government deficits. Germany, meanwhile, is also a large contributor to the bailout fund.

"There is a fundamental divergence in points of view," said Eswar Prasad, a former IMF official and economics professor at Cornell University. The IMF's emphasis on growth is "a subtle but important shift in the prioritization of the reforms."

On Tuesday, the IMF reduced its forecasts for global growth this year to 3.3 percent. That's below the 4 percent pace that the IMF projected in September. It's also lower than the estimated 3.8 percent growth for 2011 and the 5.2 percent in 2010, the year after the U.S. recession ended.

The 17 nations that share the euro will shrink 0.5 percent this year. In September, the IMF had predicted 1.1 percent growth for the region.

Europe's recession should have only a modest impact on the United States. The IMF projects 1.8 percent growth for the year in the U.S., unchanged from its September forecast and equal to its 2011 estimate.

If Europe doesn't take several steps recommended by the IMF, such as reducing its emphasis on budget cuts, the 17 nations that share the euro could contract at a much faster pace, the fund said. That could possibly plunge the rest of the world into recession.

"The world recovery, which was weak in the first place, is in danger of stalling," Olivier Blanchard, the fund's chief economist, said at a news conference. "The epicenter of the danger is Europe, but the rest of the world is increasingly affected."

Apple doubles iPhone sales in 1Q

NEW YORK (AP)—The iPhone is taking over Apple.

For the first time, the device that changed how people use mobile phones, accounts for more than half of the behemoth company's sales.

Apple Inc. on Tuesday said it sold 37 million iPhones in the last three months of 2011, vastly exceeding analyst estimates and propelling the company to record quarterly results.

The phone accounted for 53 percent of Apple's revenue in the quarter. Though it has other hit products, like MacBooks and the iPad, they can't keep up with the iPhone, whose sales more than doubled over last year from an already high level.

The sales mean Apple is set to regain the position it briefly held earlier last year of being the world's largest maker of smartphones. Nokia Corp., the earlier No. 1, in transition to a new generation of smartphones, and more recent competitor Samsung Electronics Co. has announced preliminary figure of 35 million smartphones sold in the October to December period.

October saw Apple launching the iPhone 4S in the U.S. and some other countries. The phone was delayed for a few months, which meant that Apple's results for the July to September quarter were uncharacteristically tepid.

It came back with a vengeance in the holiday season. On Tuesday, Apple said net income in the fiscal first quarter, which ended Dec. 31, was $13.06 billion, or $13.87 per share. That was up 118 percent from $6 billion, or $6.43 per share, a year ago.

Analysts polled by FactSet were expecting earnings of $10.04 per share for the latest quarter, Apple's fiscal first.

Revenue was $46.33 billion, up 73 percent from a year ago. Analysts were expecting $38.9 billion.

The Cupertino, Calif., company shipped 15.4 million iPads in the quarter, again more than doubling sales over the same quarter last year. The November launch of Amazon.com Inc.'s $199 Kindle Fire tablet didn't appear to put much of a dent in the iPad's sales, as some analysts predicted it would.

Apple shares rose $33.03, or 7.9 percent, to $453.53 in extended trading, after the release of the results.

Chief Financial Officer Peter Oppenheimer said the company expects earnings of $8.50 per share in the current quarter, and sales of $32.5 billion. Both figures are above the average estimate of analysts polled by FactSet, even though Apple usually low-balls its estimates.

Apple ended the quarter with a cash balance of a staggering $97.6 billion. That's more than enough to buy Citigroup Inc. outright, or issue a special dividend of $100 per Apple share.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Japan announces first trade deficit since 1980

TOKYO (AP)—Japan marked its first trade deficit since 1980, a 2.49 trillion yen ($32 billion) shortfall for 2011 caused in part by last year's tsunami and the rising value of the yen, the Finance Ministry said Wednesday. Government data released Wednesday said the value of Japan's exports fell 2.7 percent to 65.55 trillion yen ($843 billion) for 2011. The drop was attributed to the economic impact of the March 11, 2011 earthquake and tsunami and the rise in the value of the yen against the U.S. dollar, along with a gloomier outlook in the global economy. In December, the trade balance was a deficit of 205.1 billion yen, according to the Finance Ministry figures.

Yahoo delivers another listless performance in 4Q

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Yahoo slipped further behind in the online advertising race during the fourth quarter as the Internet company entered the fourth year of a revenue slump. The results announced Tuesday marked the latest in a succession of disappointing performances. The persisting malaise led to the firing of Carol Bartz as CEO four months ago. Yahoo Inc. recently replaced Bartz with PayPal executive Scott Thompson, anointing him as the fourth CEO in less than five years to try to snap the company out of a funk that has depressed its stock. Thompson, who was hired just three weeks ago, promised to move quickly to fix the problems.

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
12,675.75	1,314.65	2,786.64
-33.07	-1.35	+2.47
-3.68%	-0.10%	+0.09%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	0.9502	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7606	Philippine Peso	43.1573
British Pound	0.6408	Indian Rupee	50.055	Singapore Dollar	1.2663
Canadian Dollar	1.0113	Indonesian Rupiah	9035	South Korean Won	1125.95
Chinese Yuan	6.311	Japanese Yen	77.954	Swiss Franc	0.9288
Euro	0.7678	Malaysian Ringgit	3.0776	Taiwan Dollar	0.9288
		New Zealand Dollar	1.2348	Thailand Baht	31.53

Nation

Obama challenges: Shrink gap between rich, poor

WASHINGTON (AP)—Declaring the American dream under siege, President Barack Obama delivered a populist challenge Tuesday night to shrink the gap between rich and poor, promising to tax the wealthy more and help jobless Americans get work and hang onto their homes. Seeking re-election and needing results, the president invited Republicans to join him but warned, "I intend to fight."

In an emphatic State of the Union address, Obama said ensuring a fair shot for all Americans is "the defining issue of our time." He said the economy is finally recovering from a deep and painful recession and he will fight any effort to return to policies that brought it low.

"We've come too far to turn back now," he declared.

Obama outlined a vastly different vision for fixing the country than the one pressed by the Republicans confronting him in Congress and fighting to take his job in the November election. He pleaded for an active government that ensures economic fairness for everyone, just as his opponents demand that the government back off and let the free market rule.

Obama offered steps to help students afford college, a plan for more struggling homeowners to refinance their homes and tax cuts for manufacturers.

AP

President Barack Obama delivers his State of the Union address on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday, Jan. 24, 2012, as Vice President Joe Biden and House Speaker John Boehner, right, applaud.

He threw in politically appealing references to accountability, including warning universities they will lose federal aid if they don't stop tuition from soaring.

Standing in front of a divided Congress, with bleak hope this election year for much of his legislative agenda, Obama spoke with voters in mind.

"We can either settle for a country where a shrinking number of people do really well, while a growing number of Americans barely get by," Obama said. "Or we can restore an economy where everyone gets a fair shot, everyone does their fair share, and everyone plays by the same set of rules."

A rare wave of unity splashed over the House chamber at the start. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, survivor of an assassination attempt one year ago, received sustained applause from her peers and cheers of "Gabby, Gabby, Gabby." She blew a kiss to the podium. Obama embraced her.

Lawmakers leapt to their feet when Obama said near the start of his speech that terrorist leader Osama bin Laden, killed by a raid authorized by the president, will no longer threaten America.

At the core of Obama's address was the improving but deeply wounded economy—the matter still driving Americans' anxiety and the one likely to determine the next presidency.

"The state of our union is getting stronger," Obama said, calibrating his words as millions remain unemployed. Implicit in his declaration that the American dream is "within our reach" was the recognition that, after three years of an Obama presidency, the country is not there yet.

He spoke of restoring basic goals: owning a home, earning enough to raise a family, putting a little money away for retirement.

"We can do this," Obama said. "I know we can." He said Americans are convinced that "Washington is broken," but he also said it wasn't too late to cooperate on important matters.

Republicans were not impressed. They applauded infrequently, though they did cheer when the president quoted "Republican Abraham Lincoln" as saying: "That government should do for people only what they cannot do better by themselves - and no more."

Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels, offering the formal GOP response, called Obama's policies "pro-poverty" and his tactics divisive.

"No feature of the Obama presidency has been sadder than its constant efforts to divide us, to curry favor with some Americans by castigating others," Daniels said after the president's address.

In a signature swipe at the nation's growing income gap, Obama called for a new minimum tax rate of at least 30 percent on anyone making over $1 million. Many millionaires - including one of his chief rivals, Republican Mitt Romney - pay a rate less than that because they get most of their income from investments, which are taxed at a lower rate.

"Now you can call this class warfare all you want," Obama said, responding to a frequent criticism from the GOP presidential field. "But asking a billionaire to pay at least as much as his secretary in taxes? Most Americans would call that common sense."

Obama calls this the "Buffett rule," named for billionaire Warren Buffett, who has said it's unfair that his secretary pays a higher tax rate than he does. Emphasizing the point, Buffett's secretary, Debbie Bosanek, attended the address in first lady Michelle Obama's box.

Obama underlined every proposal with the idea that hard work and responsibility still count. He was targeting independent voters who helped seal his election in 2008 and the frustrated masses in a nation pessimistic about its course.

Marine to serve no time in Iraqi killings case

CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. (AP)—A Marine sergeant who led a squad that killed 24 unarmed Iraqis will spend no time in confinement, despite a military judge's recommendation Tuesday that he spend three months in the brig.

Military judge Lt. Col. David Jones said his hands were tied by a plea agreement that prevents any jail time for Staff Sgt. Frank Wuterich. Wuterich pleaded guilty to negligent dereliction of duty as part of a deal with prosecutors. The minor charge carried a maximum sentence of 90 days, which is what Jones recommended.

But because of the way the military system works, the terms of the deal with prosecutors weren't known to the judge until after he made his sentencing recommendation in court on Tuesday.

Prosecutors asked Jones to give Wuterich the maximum sentence of three months confinement, a reduction in rank and forfeiture of two-thirds of his pay.

They said his knee-jerk reaction of sending the squad to assault nearby homes without positively identifying the threat went against his training and led to the deaths of the 10 women and children.

"That is a horrific result from that derelict order of shooting first, ask questions later," Lt. Col. Sean Sullivan told the court. The judge said he would recommend that Wuterich's rank be reduced to private.

He said he decided not to dock his pay because he is the divorced father of three young daughters with sole custody.

Wuterich has acknowledged ordering his squad to "shoot first, ask questions later" after a roadside bomb took the life of a fellow Marine, but he said he did not shoot any of the 10 women and children killed in nearby homes that he stormed with his men.

"The truth is: I never fired my weapon at any women or children that day," Wuterich told military judge Lt. Col. David Jones, who recommended the sentence that must be approved by the commander of Marine Corps Forces Central Command.

The surprise contention by Wuterich contradicts prosecutors who implicated him in 19 of the 24 deaths. It also counters testimony from a former squad mate who said he joined Wuterich in firing in a dark back bedroom where a woman and children were killed.

Money talk dominating Romney, Gingrich contest

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—Mitt Romney and Newt Gingrich's fight for Florida and the states beyond stayed at a high boil Tuesday as Romney released tax returns showing annual income topping $20 million—including a now-closed Swiss bank account—and Gingrich insisted his high-paid consulting work for a mortgage giant that contributed to the housing crisis didn't include lobbying.

After a night of mutual sniping in a debate, the two leading GOP presidential candidates tried to turn the arguments over their various business dealings to his own advantage. Romney's release of two years' worth of tax documents, showing him at an elite level even among the nation's richest 1 percent, kept the focus on the two men's money and how they earned it.

Romney's income put him in the top 0.006 percent of Americans, according to Internal Revenue Service data from 2009, the most recent year available. His net worth has been estimated as high as $250 million.

As the former Massachusetts governor relented to pressure and released more than 500 pages of tax documents, Gingrich kept up the heat, saying Romney was "outrageously dishonest" for accusing him of influence peddling for government-backed mortgage giant Freddie Mac.

"I don't own any Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac stock. He does, so presumably he was getting richer," Gingrich told Fox News on Tuesday.

The specter of well-off Gingrich and wealthier Romney feuding over money matters pleased Rick Santorum, who lags in polls for next Tuesday's Florida primary but hopes to benefit from the dust-up as the race moves on. He told MSNBC: "The other two candidates have some severe flaws."

Striking out in two directions, Romney planned to offer advance criticism of President Barack Obama's Tuesday night State of the Union address, then focus on Florida's housing woes in an event sure to again highlight Gingrich's $25,000 monthly retainer from Freddie Mac.

The former House speaker said Romney's charges were ironic, given that it was revealed after Monday's debate that Romney himself was an investor in both Freddie Mac and its sister entity, Fannie Mae.

Strong solar storm sparks dazzling northern lights

STOCKHOLM (AP)—A storm from the broiling sun turned the chilly northernmost skies of Earth into an ever-changing and awe-provoking art show of northern lights on Tuesday.

Even experienced stargazers were stunned by the intensity of the aurora borealis that swept across the night sky in northern Scandinavia after the biggest solar flare in six years.

"It has been absolutely incredible," British astronomer John Mason cried from the deck of the MS Midnatsol, a cruise ship plying the fjord-fringed coast of northern Norway.

"I saw my first aurora 40 years ago, and this is one of the best," Mason told The Associated Press, his voice nearly drowning in the cheers of awe-struck fellow passengers.

U.S. space weather experts from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said Tuesday evening that so far they had heard of no problems from the storm that triggered the auroras, which made it as far south as Wales, where the weather often doesn't cooperate with good viewing.

It was part of the strongest solar storm in years, but the sun is likely to get even more active in the next few months and years, said physicist Doug Biesecker at the U.S. Space Weather Prediction Center in Boulder, Colorado.

"To me this was a wake up call. The sun is reminding us that solar max is approaching," Biesecker said. "A lot worse is in store for us. We hope that you guys are paying attention. I would say we passed with flying colors."

Even before particles from the solar storm reached the Earth on Tuesday, a different aurora Monday night was dancing across the sky as far south as Ireland and England, where people rarely get a chance to catch the stunning light show.

Those northern lights were likely just variations in normal background solar wind, not the solar storm that erupted Sunday, Biesecker said.

Tuesday's colorful display may not have moved that far south, limiting its audience, but those who got to see it got brilliance in the sky that had not been around for years.

"It was the biggest northern lights I've seen in the five-six years that I've worked here," said Andreas Hermansson, a tour guide at the Ice Hotel in the Swedish town of Jukkasjarvi, above the Arctic Circle.

Asia

Security in Tibetan region tightened, wounded hide

BEIJING (AP)—About 30 Tibetans injured after Chinese police fired into a crowd of protesters in a restive southwestern region were seeking shelter Tuesday in a monastery while military forces surrounded the building, a Tibetan monk said.

Chinese authorities said Monday's unrest was caused by a "mob" and that overseas advocacy groups were twisting the truth about what happened in order to undermine the government.

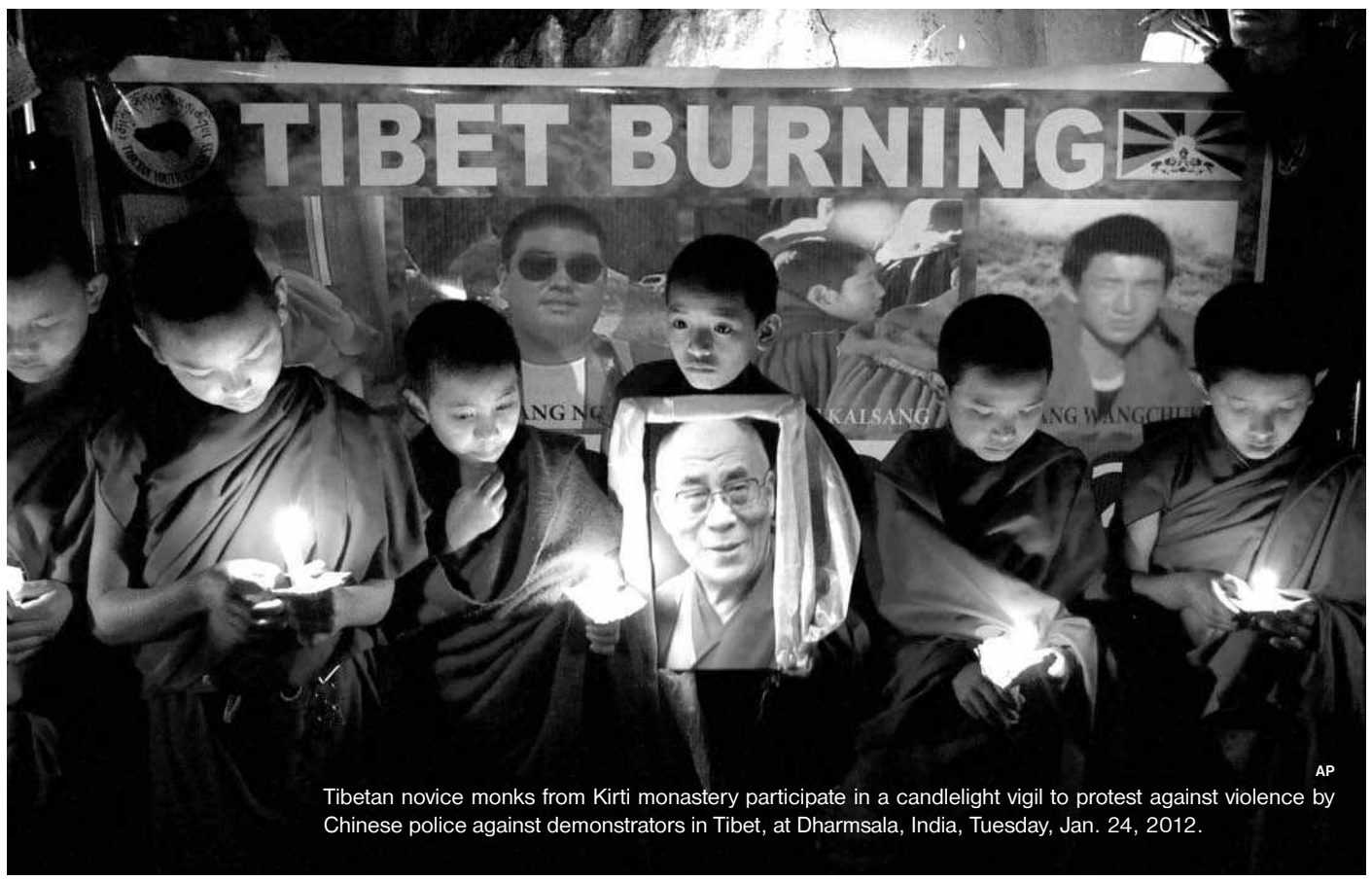
The United States, which will host China's Vice President Xi Jinping at the White House next month, expressed grave concern at reports that security forces in Sichuan province opened fire on protesters, killing some and injuring others.

The violence in Luhuo county in the politically sensitive Ganzi prefecture of Sichuan comes amid high tensions after at least 16 Buddhist monks, nuns and other Tibetans self-immolated in the past year. Most have chanted for Tibetan freedom and the return of their spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, who fled to India amid an abortive uprising against Chinese rule in 1959.

A monk from Luhuo county's Shouling monastery, one of the most famous monasteries in the region, told The Associated Press by phone that 33 wounded people were being cared for in a clinic within the religious compound. At least 50 military vehicles were parked outside the monastery, he said.

"They want to take the injured people away but we won't let them because we don't trust them, we don't know what will happen to them," said the monk, who would not give his name out of fear of government retaliation. He said the monks worried about the massive security response.

"We are all in the monastery. Without the local residents around, the monks don't dare to go out," he said.



AP

Tibetan novice monks from Kirti monastery participate in a candlelight vigil to protest against violence by Chinese police against demonstrators in Tibet, at Dharmsala, India, Tuesday, Jan. 24, 2012.

Accounts of Monday's violence differ, and independent confirmation is impossible due to a heavy security presence and lack of access to outsiders. Tibet activist groups said police opened fire on thousands of peaceful protesters, while the Chinese government says a far smaller number of Tibetans and police clashed after the Tibetans attacked a police station and smashed cars.

The monk at the Shouling monastery told the AP that the protesters had been peaceful until police fired into the crowd, killing one man. "When it all started we were only standing in the streets shouting slogans," he said. After police opened fire, the Tibetans responded by smashing police cars and windows, he said. But he rejected official accounts that five police were also injured in the clash.

He said Tibetans were frustrated by the government's tight restrictions on their religious practices.

"The Chinese government says we have religious freedom but we have no freedom at all. If we did, then they would not be talking badly about the Dalai Lama. They say you cannot listen to the Dalai Lama, if we have pictures of the Dalai Lama we have to take them down," he said. "This really hurts our feelings; they hurt our self-esteem."

The London-based International Campaign for Tibet said three Tibetans were killed and nine wounded, while another group, Free Tibet, said one died and up to 30 others were shot and wounded in Luhuo, also known as Draggo in Tibetan.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei slammed such groups, accusing them of exaggeration. Hong said order has been restored after one Tibetan died and four others were injured, and that five police were also wounded.

"Overseas forces of 'Tibet independence' have always fabricated rumors and distorted the truth to discredit the Chinese government with issues involving Tibet," Hong said in remarks carried by the official Xinhua News Agency.

Xinhua said more than 100 people, including monks, some armed with knives and stones, gathered to attack a police station after hearing rumors that three monks would set themselves on fire. They smashed two police vehicles and two fire engines and stormed shops, it said.

Ganzi is a rugged, deeply Buddhist region filled with monasteries that has been at the center of dissent for years. It is among the traditionally Tibetan areas of Sichuan province and other parts of western China that have been closed to outsiders for months amid a massive security presence.

Many Tibetans resent Beijing's heavy-handed rule and the large-scale migration of China's ethnic Han majority to the Himalayan region. While China claims Tibet has been under its rule for centuries, many Tibetans say the region was functionally independent for most of that time.

In a statement Tuesday, U.S. Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues Maria Otero expressed grave concern over the latest violence, and urged China's government to address "counterproductive policies" in Tibetan areas that have created tensions and threatened Tibetans' religious, cultural and linguistic identity.

She also called on China to resume talks with the Dalai Lama or his representatives over Tibetan grievances.

State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland said the U.S. has always been clear with China about its concerns for the human rights of Tibetans and others. She said the U.S. would "just as clear" when Vice President Xi visits next month.

Several dead after landslide hits Papua New Guinea

PORT MORESBY, Papua New Guinea (AP)—Rescuers were pulling bodies from the debris of a landslide that struck mountainous central Papua New Guinea, a disaster official said Wednesday, with reports saying as many as 60 people were dead or missing.

The full extent of the damage to villages hit by Tuesday's landslide was not immediately known, said Martin Mose, the director of the South Pacific island nation's National Disaster Center.

"I just received reports that several bodies have been recovered," Mose told The Associated Press. He said he was waiting for officials at the scene—near the town of Mendi—to provide him with the exact number.

Local media reported that 40 bodies had been recovered and 20 people were still missing.

Local lawmaker Francis Potape told Radio Australia's indigenous language service that the landslide completely covered two villages while people slept.

"There are people buried underneath and a number of them are, from what I have heard, children," The National newspaper quoted Potape as saying.

Reports said the destruction extended more than one mile (two kilometers), leaving roads to villages cut off.

Three National Disaster Center officials were being flown by helicopter to Mendi on Wednesday to join police at the disaster site.

The Post Courier newspaper reported that Prime Minister Peter O'Neill would fly to the state later Wednesday.

Manila seizes shipment feared bound for drugs gang

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine customs authorities waited a month to see who would claim the suspicious shipment of "kitchen equipment" from Taiwan. The unclaimed items seized Tuesday appeared to have been meant for cooking something illegal.

A Chinese drug syndicate is suspected to have arranged the shipment to use the drumloads of chemicals, heating equiment and other items to produce large quantities of methamphetamine in the Philippines, officials said.

After a tip-off from an informant, the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Commission secretly monitored the arrival of the shipment as part of a new crackdown to prevent foreign-based drug syndicates from setting up clandestine drug laboratories and secret warehouses in the country, specially in the capital, said Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr., who heads the commission.

The five containers were declared by the shipper as carrying kitchen equipment. It had refrigerators, laboratory glass containers and pipes, plus 80 drums of sulfuric acid and more than 400 bags of caustic soda to make meth, Deputy Customs Commissioner Danilo Lim said.

Anti-narcotics agents were trying to find the sender and would-be recipient of the shipment, Lim said. The seized equipment strongly resembled items found in a drug-manufacturing hideout raided recently in an upscale Manila enclave, he added.

Methamphetamine is known locally as "shabu."

The Philippines continues to face an alarming drug problem despite efforts to disrupt major trafficking syndicates and dismantle clandestine labs. Corruption among law enforcers and officials and vast stretches of unpatrolled coastline make the country an attractive narcotics source and transshipment point.

Illegal drug production in the Philippines carries a maximum prison term of 40 years.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Hundreds of rebels lay down weapons in India state

GAUHATI, India (AP)—Hundreds of rebels in jungle fatigues lined up to surrender their weapons Tuesday as several local insurgent groups formally joined a cease-fire with the government in a step toward ending three decades of insurgency in northeastern India. The 676 fighters who handed over weapons to authorities at a sports stadium in the Assam state capital of Gauhati are members of nine of the more than 20 ethnic rebel groups fighting the government in the remote northeastern state. More than 10,000 people have been killed since 1979 when the insurgents began fighting for greater autonomy for their ethnic groups in Assam. However, over the past two years, the groups have begun to reach cease-fire accords and enter peace talks with the government.

Chinese New Year fireworks spark deadly Thai blaze

BANGKOK (AP)—Fireworks set off during an official Chinese New Year celebration have sparked a blaze that burned homes, killed three people and injured others in central Thailand. Suphanburi Governor Somsak Phureesrisak told TPBS TV by telephone the three were killed as at least 20 houses burned down late Tuesday. Somjate Promsuntorn, head of the Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Office, said at least 20 people were injured. A local hospital, however, told Springnews.tv that it had treated 57 people.

Inmates, guards clash in Sri Lanka prison, 28 hurt

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—Inmates and guards clashed at a Sri Lankan prison Tuesday, injuring at least 28 people before soldiers restored control after five hours, officials said. Reporters outside heard gunshots from within the compound in Colombo, and police fired tear gas before order was restored. Prisoners also set fire to the records room. The inmates were protesting a move to curtail drug smuggling into the prison, police spokesman Ajith Rohana said. He said 24 prisoners and four guards were hurt.

World

Arab efforts to stem Syrian bloodshed in turmoil

BEIRUT (AP)—With Arab pressure mounting to end 10 months of bloodshed, the Syrian regime vowed Tuesday to solve its own problems even if "half the universe" is conspiring against it.

The remarks signaled that Arab League efforts to stem the violence are collapsing—something that could pave the way for the U.N. Security Council to step in, even though Russia is firmly opposed to punitive measures against its longtime ally. Syrian Foreign Minister Walid al-Moallem brushed off the threat of referring the issue to the Security Council—a move that could lead to tougher sanctions—rather than trying to resolve it regionally. The prospect of U.N. involvement has raised fears in Syria that an international intervention could be next.

"If they go to (U.N. headquarters in) New York or the moon, as long as we don't pay their tickets, this is their business," al-Moallem said at a news conference in Damascus.

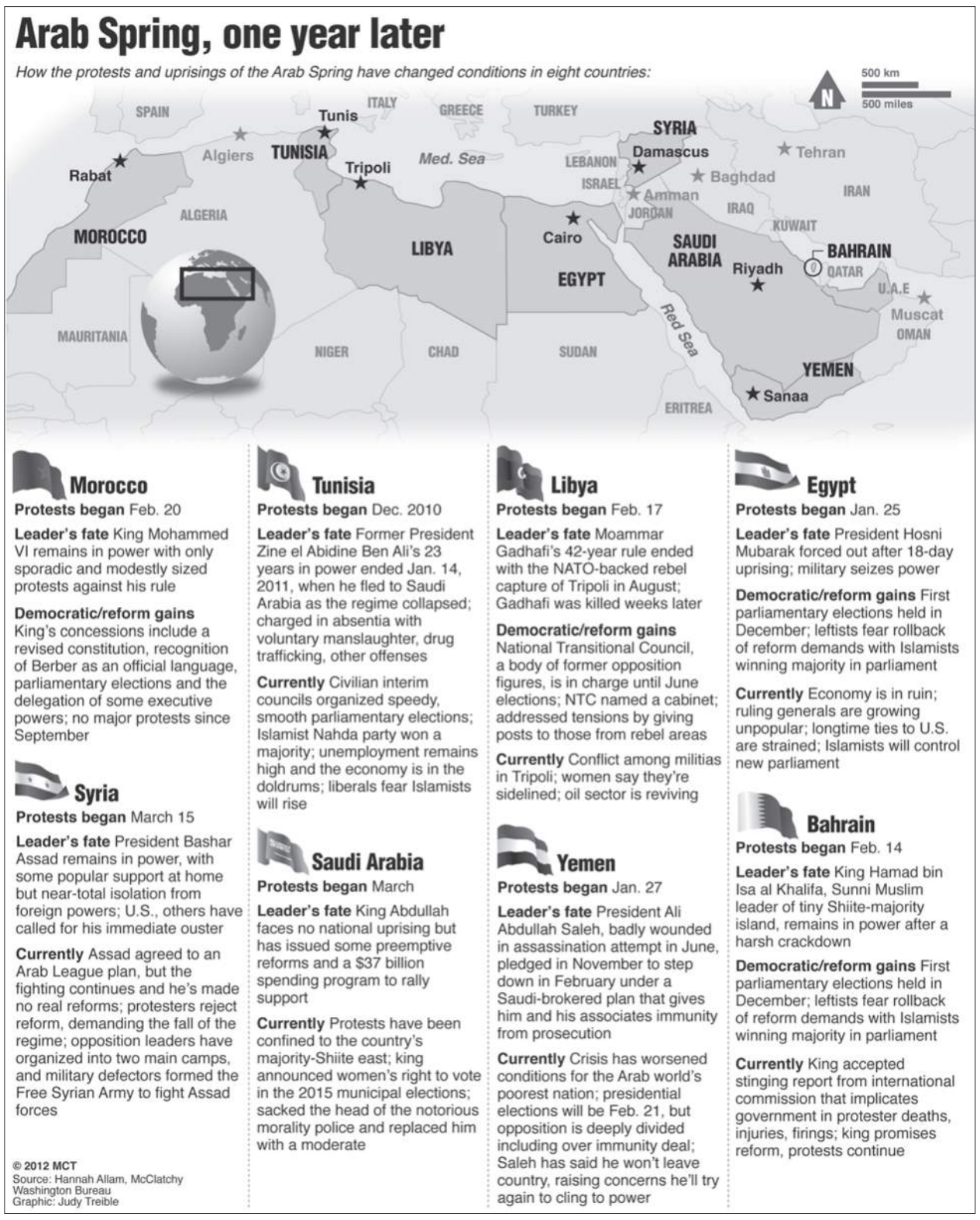
He was reacting to an appeal by the Gulf Cooperation Council for the U.N. Security Council to take all "necessary measures" to force Syria to implement an Arab League's ambitious peace plan announced Sunday to create a national unity government in two months. Damascus has rejected the plan as a violation of national sovereignty.

"The decision was made after careful and thorough monitoring of events in Syria and the conviction by the GCC that the bloodshed and the killing of innocent people there is continuing," the statement by the six-nation GCC said.

It also announced its six member nations—Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman and the United Arab Emirates—were withdrawing the 52 monitors they had contributed to an Arab League observer mission that has been heavily criticized for failing to stop the crackdown since it entered the country in late December. That would leave only about 110 observers on the ground, League officials said, a major blow to an effort that many see as the only hope for a regional solution to the crisis.

Several members of the 15-member council agreed Tuesday that it was time for the full group to take action.

"This council should fully support the Arab League's efforts to broker an end to the bloodshed and a peaceful transition to democracy in Syria," U.S. Ambassador Susan Rice said during the council's monthly debate on the Middle East.


Arab Spring, one year later
How the protests and uprisings of the Arab Spring have changed conditions in eight countries:
500 km
500 miles
N
SPAIN
ITALY
GREECE
TURKEY
Tunis
Algiers
TUNISIA
Tripoli
Rabat
Med. Sea
SYRIA
Damascus
LEBANON
ISRAEL
Amman
JORDAN
Baghdad
IRAQ
Tehran
IRAN
KUWAIT
ALGERIA
MOROCCO
LIBYA
Cairo
EGYPT
SAUDI ARABIA
Riyadh
BAHRAIN
QATAR
U.A.E
Muscat
OMAN
MAURITANIA
NIGER
CHAD
SUDAN
Red Sea
YEMEN
Sanaa
ERITREA
Morocco
Protests began Feb. 20
Leader's fate King Mohammed VI remains in power with only sporadic and modestly sized protests against his rule
Democratic/reform gains King's concessions include a revised constitution, recognition of Berber as an official language, parliamentary elections and the delegation of some executive powers; no major protests since September
Syria
Protests began March 15
Leader's fate President Bashar Assad remains in power, with some popular support at home but near-total isolation from foreign powers; U.S., others have called for his immediate ouster
Currently Assad agreed to an Arab League plan, but the fighting continues and he's made no real reforms; protesters reject reform, demanding the fall of the regime; opposition leaders have organized into two main camps, and military defectors formed the Free Syrian Army to fight Assad forces
Tunisia
Protests began Dec. 2010
Leader's fate Former President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali's 23 years in power ended Jan. 14, 2011, when he fled to Saudi Arabia as the regime collapsed; charged in absentia with voluntary manslaughter, drug trafficking, other offenses
Currently Civilian interim councils organized speedy, smooth parliamentary elections; Islamist Nahda party won a majority; unemployment remains high and the economy is in the doldrums; liberals fear Islamists will rise
Saudi Arabia
Protests began March
Leader's fate King Abdullah faces no national uprising but has issued some preemptive reforms and a $37 billion spending program to rally support
Currently Protests have been confined to the country's majority-Shiite east; king announced women's right to vote in the 2015 municipal elections; sacked the head of the notorious morality police and replaced him with a moderate
Libya
Protests began Feb. 17
Leader's fate Moammar Gadhafi's 42-year rule ended with the NATO-backed rebel capture of Tripoli in August; Gadhafi was killed weeks later
Democratic/reform gains National Transitional Council, a body of former opposition figures, is in charge until June elections; NTC named a cabinet; addressed tensions by giving posts to those from rebel areas
Currently Conflict among militias in Tripoli; women say they're sidelined; oil sector is reviving
Yemen
Protests began Jan. 27
Leader's fate President Ali Abdullah Saleh, badly wounded in assassination attempt in June, pledged in November to step down in February under a Saudi-brokered plan that gives him and his associates immunity from prosecution
Currently Crisis has worsened conditions for the Arab world's poorest nation; presidential elections will be Feb. 21, but opposition is deeply divided including over immunity deal; Saleh has said he won't leave country, raising concerns he'll try again to cling to power
Egypt
Protests began Jan. 25
Leader's fate President Hosni Mubarak forced out after 18-day uprising; military seizes power
Democratic/reform gains First parliamentary elections held in December; leftists fear rollback of reform demands with Islamists winning majority in parliament
Currently Economy is in ruin; ruling generals are growing unpopular; longtime ties to U.S. are strained; Islamists will control new parliament
Bahrain
Protests began Feb. 14
Leader's fate King Hamad bin Isa al Khalifa, Sunni Muslim leader of tiny Shiite-majority island, remains in power after a harsh crackdown
Democratic/reform gains First parliamentary elections held in December; leftists fear rollback of reform demands with Islamists winning majority in parliament
Currently King accepted stinging report from international commission that implicates government in protester deaths, injuries, firings; king promises reform, protests continue
© 2012 MCT
Source: Hannah Allam, McClatchy Washington Bureau
Graphic: Judy Treible

Egypt's ruler partially lifts emergency laws

CAIRO (AP)—Egypt's military ruler on Tuesday decreed a partial lifting of the nation's hated emergency laws, an apparent attempt to ease criticism of his policies ahead of the first anniversary of the popular uprising that toppled Hosni Mubarak.

Field Marshal Hussein Tantawi said in a televised address that the draconian laws, in force for more than three decades, would be lifted effective Wednesday but would remain applicable to crimes committed by "thugs." The military has often labeled organizers of anti-government demonstrations "thugs."

Tantawi's decision to partially lift the emergency laws, which give police far-reaching powers, would likely not satisfy rights groups that have been campaigning for their total removal.

Rights groups say at least 12,000 civilians have been tried before military tribunals since the military council took power. Many of them, they say, were charged with acts of "thuggery" when, in fact, they were protesters.

The term also has been used to ridicule the military in the independent press, and some of the young protesters in recent demonstrations have been chanting, "we are thugs!" At least 80 protesters have been killed by troops since October.

To mark the anniversary, the rulers pledged to release more than 1,900 people who were tried in military courts. The release was set for Wednesday morning.

In another apparent good will gesture, blogger Maikel Nabil Sanad was freed Tuesday. He was arrested in March and sentenced by a military court to three years in prison over his criticism of the military's use of violence against protesters.

Tantawi and the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces he chairs took power when an 18-day uprising forced Mubarak to step down on Feb. 11, 2011.

To mark the anniversary Wednesday, protesters are expected to take to the streets to call on the military to immediately step down and to demand retribution for hundreds of protesters killed by Mubarak's security forces or at the hands of troops in subsequent clashes.

"I'm here for the rights of martyrs. A year has passed and nothing has changed," protester Mohammed Khalil said he sat in a tent he erected Tuesday night at Tahrir Square, birthplace of the anti-Mubarak uprising and the main venue of Wednesday's protests.

Gadhafi loyalists seize Libyan city

BENGHAZI, Libya (AP)—Moammar Gadhafi loyalists seized control of a Libyan mountain city in the most serious challenge to the central government since the strongman's fall, underlining the increasing weakness of Libya's Western-backed rulers as they try to unify the country under their authority.

The taking of Bani Walid, one of the last Gadhafi strongholds captured by the new leadership late last year, was the first such organized operation by armed remnants of Gadhafi's regime. A simultaneous outbreak of shootings in the capital and Libya's second largest city Benghazi raised authorities' concerned that other networks of loyalists were active elsewhere.

The security woes add to the difficulties of the ruling National Transitional Council, which is struggling to establish its authority and show Libyans progress in stability and good government. Bani Walid's fall comes after violent protests in Benghazi, where Libyans angry over lack of reform stormed the NTC headquarters and trashed offices.

In Bani Walid, hundreds of well-equipped and highly trained remnants of Gadhafi's forces battled for eight hours on Monday with the local pro-NTC revolutionary brigade, known as the May 28 Brigade, said Mubarak al-Fatmani, the head of Bani Walid local council. The brigade was driven out and Gadhafi loyalists then raised their old green flag over buildings in the western city.

Four revolutionary fighters were killed and 25 others were wounded in the fighting, al-Fatmani said.

There were no immediate signs that the uprising was part of some direct attempt to restore the family of Gadhafi, who was swept out of power in August and then killed in the nearby city of Sirte in October. His sons, daughter and wife have been killed, arrested or have fled to neighboring countries.

Instead, the fighting seemed to reflect a rejection of NTC control by a city that never deeply accepted its rule, highlighting the still unresolved tensions between those who benefited under Gadhafi's regime and those now in power. Those tensions are tightly wound up with tribal and regional rivalries around the country.

War of words over Greek debt heats up

ZURICH (AP)—The war of words between Europe and private investors heated up Tuesday as talks to reduce Greece's massive debt burden hit an impasse.

While the finance ministers of the countries that use the euro as their currency adopted a tough stance on how much rescue money they would pump into the Greek economy, the head of the group that represents the country's private creditors—banks and other investment firms—warned that the future of Europe was being threatened if a voluntary debt reduction deal over Greece was not agreed.

Charles Dallara, the managing director of the Institute of International Finance, warned that Europe is putting decades of progress at risk over the management of Greek debt-reduction talks, which stalled over the weekend.

"European stability is at stake as well," Dallara said at a news conference in Zurich.

On the front line of Europe's sovereign debt crisis, Athens is trying to get its private creditors to swap their Greek government bonds for new ones with half their face value, thereby slicing some euro100 billion ($130 billion) off its debt. The new bonds would also push the repayment deadlines 20 to 30 years into the future.

However, the main stumbling block over the past few weeks to securing this deal has been the interest rate these new bonds would carry. A high interest rate could buffer losses for investors, but would also require the eurozone and the International Monetary Fund to put up more than the euro130 billion ($169 billion) in rescue loans they promised in October.

Dallara said the private creditors, which include banks, insurance companies and hedge funds, are acting in good faith and that the proposal made last week was in the spirit of October's agreement. At that time, Europe's leaders said Greece should look to reduce the value of its private sector debts by 50 percent, or euro100 billion ($130 billion).

Focus

Briton with locked-in syndrome wants RIGHT TO DIE

By MARIA CHENG
AP Medical Writer

LONDON (AP)—Former rugby player Tony Nicklinson had a high-flying job as a corporate manager in Dubai, where he went skydiving and bridge-climbing in his free time.

Seven years ago, he suffered a paralyzing stroke. Today he can only move his head, cannot speak and needs constant care.

And he wants to die.

To try to ensure that whoever ends his life won't be jailed, the 57-year-old Nicklinson recently asked Britain's High Court to declare that any doctor who gives him a lethal injection with his consent won't be charged with murder. This week, the court will hold its first hearing on the case.

"Most people who want to die, who are physically able to do so, can lawfully commit suicide," said Nicklinson's lawyer, Saimo Chahal.

But that's not the case for Nicklinson, who has "locked-in syndrome"—a condition in which a person's body is paralyzed but mind intact.

Under U.K. law, anyone who helps Nicklinson die could be charged with murder, even if they are carrying out his wishes. A murder charge has a mandatory life sentence, regardless of the motive or circumstances.

No one suspected of aiding a loved one's suicide has been charged with such a crime in Britain in recent years. But Nicklinson doesn't want to take any chances. Instead he wants to change the legal definition of murder to exclude euthanasia, arguably a long shot.

Emily Jackson, a medical law expert at London's School of Economics, said Nicklinson may have a plausible case. "He is making a very interesting argument," she said.

Euthanasia is legal in the Netherlands but requires a long-term relationship between doctors and patients, a rule that excludes most foreigners. Assisted suicide is legal in Switzerland, including for foreigners, but Nicklinson does not want to go there to die.

Nicklinson argues that British law hinders his right to "private and family life"—guaranteed by the European Convention on Human Rights—on the grounds that being able to choose how to die is a matter of personal autonomy.

"He argues that it's unfair on him and that a humane legal system would enable somebody in his circumstances, with considerable safeguards, to get help from a doctor to exercise a right, which he has in theory, but is deprived of in practice," Chahal said.

The Ministry of Justice has applied to dismiss Nicklinson's suit since it could involve changing the law—which must be done by Parliament, not the High Court.

Nicklinson communicates mostly by using a computer that detects his blinking. In a statement, he described his life as "dull, miserable, demeaning, undignified and intolerable."

He has refused since 2007 to take any life-prolonging drugs recommended by doctors, including heart drugs or blood thinners. He only takes medicines to make himself more comfortable, such as those to reduce muscle spasms. His wife, Jane, a trained nurse, said he could be at risk of another stroke or a heart attack.

Jane described her husband as "a real alpha male" who was very active before his stroke. "He was tall, dark and handsome," she says of the night they met on a blind date in Dubai. The two later also lived in Hong Kong, Malaysia and Britain with their two daughters. Nicklinson chaired a sports club that ran rugby events in the United Arab Emirates, mixing with elite players and officials.

"It was a dream come true for him," his wife said.

Jane said she and their two grown daughters didn't initially agree with her husband's choice to die. "It was very upsetting and obviously it's not what we want, but it's what he wants and it's his life," she said.

Nicklinson spends most of his days at a computer he controls by blinking, writing emails and surfing the web. Jane said he rarely leaves his room in their bungalow in rural Wiltshire, southwest England, except to watch television in the evenings. He's also writing his memoirs.

"It's amazing what he remembers," his wife said. "His mind is completely unaffected."

Like the renowned physicist Stephen Hawking, who recently turned 70, Nicklinson has not lost any of his intellectual capacities. Hawking has Lou Gehrig's disease, a degenerative condition that kills most people within a few years. He has repeatedly said he doesn't think about his physical limitations, which haven't prevented him from revolutionizing the understanding of black holes and the origins of the universe.

AP

In this recent family photo released by Tony and Jane Nicklinson, Tony Nicklinson sits at his home in Wiltshire, England, where following a stroke he suffers from locked-in syndrome. Now he wants to die.

A recent British commission headed by a former justice secretary concluded there was a strong case for allowing assisted suicide under strict criteria. The commission was set up and funded by campaigners who want the current law changed. The report did not support euthanasia and recommended assisted suicide only be allowed for terminally ill people, which would exclude Nicklinson.

In 2009, the British government's top prosecutor said people who helped terminally ill relatives and friends die were unlikely to be charged if they acted out of compassion. From 2009 to 2011, 40 cases of people suspected of helping loved ones die were reported to the government prosecutor; none was charged.

In 2002, the Netherlands became the first country to legalize euthanasia, allowing doctors to end the lives of patients whose suffering is "unbearable and hopeless"—not just those with terminal illnesses. In recent years, the country's rates of euthanasia and physician-assisted suicide have risen slightly, but still account for less than 3 percent of all deaths.

Switzerland allows doctors to prescribe a fatal dose of medicine for patients to take themselves. Since 2001, more than 160 Britons have traveled to the Dignitas clinic, near Zurich, to die.

Nicklinson considered going to Switzerland, but his wife said he decided against it for several reasons, including the approximately 6,500 pound ($10,000) cost. Nicklinson is currently receiving legal aid from the government to cover most of his lawyer's fees.

Euthanasia is also legal in Belgium, Luxembourg and the state of Oregon in the United States.

Critics of euthanasia say the U.K. should focus more on improving care for the chronically and terminally ill instead of legislating mercy killing.

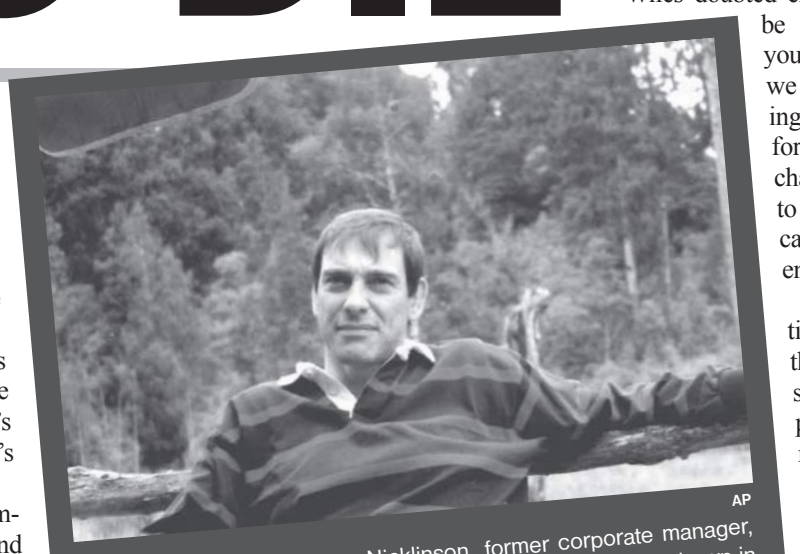
"I'm massively sympathetic to (Nicklinson's) situation, but I don't think we should change the law when it will impact hundreds of thousands of other people," said Dr. John Wiles, chairman of Care Not Killing, an alliance that opposes euthanasia. He warned that legalizing euthanasia might worsen treatment of elderly people and the terminally ill.

Wiles doubted enough safeguards could ever be in place. "However narrow you try to make it, in principle, we would be allowing the killing of other members of society for the first time," he said. "If we change the law, we'll be saying to people, 'If you don't like the care you're getting, you can just end it.'"

The British Medical Association also opposes any changes that would permit assisted suicide or euthanasia. While patients have the right to their medical records, the group advises doctors to refuse to share such reports if they suspect the information will be used to commit assisted suicide abroad.

Nicklinson's wife, Jane, said her husband simply wants the right to choose when to end his life. She said he began asking to die as soon as he could start communicating after his stroke, once he realized he wouldn't improve.

"I've tried many times to change his mind, but he is adamant to see this through," she said.



AP

Released by Tony and Jane Nicklinson, former corporate manager, rugby player, skydiving sports enthusiast Tony Nicklinson is shown in this family photo taken in New Zealand in 2000.

Environment

Students see effects of invasive species on local ecology

UOG

Students from the University of Guam and Northern Marianas College explore a forest as part of the unique course, "And No Birds Sing: Tropical Ecology and Conservation in the Mariana Islands."

An exciting and cutting edge ecology course came to a close at the University of Guam and the professors and participants held a symposium of their findings on Jan. 17.

This unique course, "And No Birds Sing: Tropical Ecology and Conservation in the Mariana Islands" was a collaborative effort by UOG, the University of Washington, Northern Marianas College, and Rice University professors to give students in-depth exposure to the ecology of the islands, with a focus on invasive species and their effects on local ecosystems.

Dr. Haldre Rogers, a former U.S. Geological Survey Brown Tree Snake Project employee who recently received her doctorate in ecology from the University of Washington, has been researching the ecological effects of the loss of native birds on plant and insect communities in Guam, funded in part by a National Science Foundation grant. The Island Ecology Course developed out of her research efforts.

"This has been an exceptional opportunity for graduate and undergraduate students from Guam and Saipan to attend a variety of lectures held at UOG and NMC and to work directly in the field collecting data for their original research. They are asking questions no one else has asked, and because many are from the islands, they are able to offer a unique perspective on the research they are conducting for the class," said Rogers. "It has been interesting to see the reaction of Saipan students to the silent, bird-less forests of Guam, and to see the Guam students' reaction to the forests of Saipan. They saw birds they have heard their elders speak of but never actually seen themselves."

Snakes, ants, butterflies, spiders, and gaps in the forests are some of the topics the students chose to investigate. UOG graduate student Ann Marie Gawel is the teaching assistant for the course. Through this course she says, "Local students have their eyes opened to the interesting ecological issues taking place in their own backyard. This is cutting edge ecology, and our Pacific home provides excellent examples of forest ecology, and the social impact and management issues around invasive species."

UOG Western Pacific Tropical Research Center entomologist Dr. Ross Miller and NMC Director of the Natural Resources and Management program Dr. Alfredo De Torres are, with Dr. Rogers, the co-creators and instructors of the course. ***(UOG)***

Fungus killing more bats than previously thought

By LOUIS SAHAGUN
LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES—Federal researchers say an infectious and lethal cold-loving fungus sweeping through parts of North America and Canada has killed millions more bats over the last five years than previously estimated.

The rapidly spreading fungus responsible for white-nose syndrome is now believed to have killed 5.7 million to 6.7 million bats, a count several times higher than earlier estimates, across 16 states as far west as Oklahoma.

The fungus, which scientists know as Geomyces destructans, seems to prefer the 25 species of hibernating bats. But each of the 45 species of bats in the United States and Canada may be susceptible, wildlife biologists say.

Estimating the number of bat deaths posed a challenge for biologists because establishing numbers of once common species had not been a primary focus of seasonal population counts. But with mortality rates reaching up to 100 percent at some sites, a team of 140 researchers in the United States and Canada recently coordinated their survey strategies to come up with a consistent estimate, said Jeremy Coleman, national white-nose syndrome coordinator for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife service.

The higher number shows the gravity of the problem, Coleman said in an interview. "We still don't know what the cascading effects will be in the environment to our ecosystems.

"This much is certain: Bats have such low reproductive rates that it will likely take multiple human generations to get bat populations back up to the numbers they were just five years ago," Coleman said.

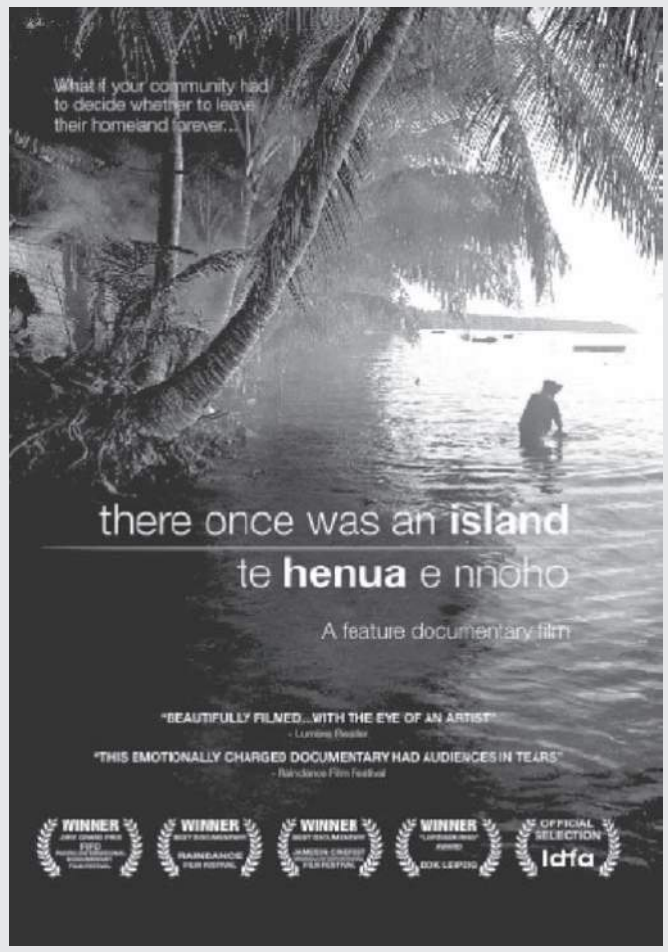
The disease has killed mostly little brown bats—one of the most common mammals in North America—which have lost an estimated 20 percent of their population in the northeastern United States.

"We are just beginning our winter surveys for this year and we expect to find that the disease has spread to additional states," said Ann Froschaur, a spokeswoman for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

White-nose syndrome can be transmitted between animals through direct contact. It gets its name from the powdery, white substance that appears around muzzles, ears and wings of affected bats.

Bats with white-nose syndrome exhibit unusual behavior during cold winter months, including flying outside during the day and clustering near the entrances of caves and mines where they hibernate.

FIRST FRIDAY FILMS


What if your community had to decide whether to leave their homeland forever...
there once was an island
te henua e nnoho
A feature documentary film
"BEAUTIFULLY FILMED...WITH THE EYE OF AN ARTIST"
"THIS EMOTIONALLY CHARGED DOCUMENTARY HAD AUDIENCES IN TEARS"
WINNER
WINNER
WINNER
WINNER
OFFICIAL SELECTION
idfa

There Once Was an Island this February

First Friday Films will be featuring a powerful new film for the month of February, *There Once Was an Island: Te Henua e Nnoho*, by New Zealand director, Briar March. Showtime will be on Feb. 3, 2012, 6:30pm at the American Memorial Park's Visitors Center.

This award-winning feature documentary is not to be missed. The film follows three people from Takuu atoll in the Solomon Islands as their community experiences the devastating effects of climate change firsthand. Will they decide to stay with their damaged and sinking island home or move to a new and unfamiliar land, leaving their culture and language behind forever?

First Friday Films is a monthly film series brought to you through a partnership with the National Park Service and the Division of Environmental Quality, with generous support from community groups and organizations such as the NMI Council for the Humanities, which is sponsoring this film.

For planning purposes, the movie runs about 80 minutes long. As always, First Friday Films is free and open to the public.

Find more information about the film at www.firstfridayfilmssaipan.blogspot.com. Subscribe to the blog for regular updates on upcoming events. ***(DEQ)***

Rising wealth of Asians straining world fish stock

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Rising wealth in Asia and fishing subsidies are among factors driving overexploitation of the world's fish resources, while fish habitat is being destroyed by pollution and climate change, U.N. marine experts said Tuesday.

Up to 32 percent of the world's fish stocks are overexploited, depleted or recovering, they warned. Up to half of the world's mangrove forests and a fifth of coral reefs that are fish spawning grounds have been destroyed.

The U.N. Environment Programme says less-destructive ways of fishing that use more labor and less energy are needed to help restore the health of the world's oceans and coasts.

The agency is leading a five-day conference in Manila of experts and officials from 70 governments.

Jacqueline Alder, head of UNEP's marine, coastal and freshwater office, said the increasing ranks of rich Asians are driving demand for better quality fish that are often not abundant, adding pressure to their supply.

"People don't want to eat the little anchovies anymore when they can eat a nice snapper or grouper—much nicer fish, shows much more of your wealth," she told reporters.

Alder said booming population, more awareness of health benefits from eating fish, fuel and boat-building subsidies in industrial fisheries, weak management and limited understanding of ecosystems' values are also driving fish overexploitation.

She said subidies should be reduced or eliminated, fishing gears should be less destructive, and the number of boats and fishers reduced. Habitat management should also be strengthened and marine protected areas established.

Fish is the main source of protein for up to 20 percent of the of world's population and some 180 million people are directly or indirectly employed by the fishing industry, she added.

Vincent Sweeney, UNEP's coordinator for the Global Program of Action to prevent marine environment degradation from land-based pollutants, said up to 90 percent of sewage in developing countries is discharged untreated into rivers, lakes and oceans, posing one of the most serious threats to water resources.

Other pollutants from land including nitrogen and phosphorous from fertilizers and detergents result in hypoxia or "dead zones" where too many nutrients cause an undesirable growth of plants that compete with coral reef and other marine life for oxygen.

Jerker Tamelander, head of UNEP's coral reef unit, said healthy coral reefs can produce up to 35 tons of fish per square kilometer each year while there is a catch reduction of 67 tons for every square kilometer of clear-cut mangrove forest.

The global market value of marine and coastal resources and industries is estimated at $3 trillion per year or about 5 percent of the global economy, he said. Non-market value such as climate, water, nutrients and carbon regulation is estimated at $22 trillion a year.

"We've lost a fifth of the world's coral reefs and 60 percent are under direct and immediate threat and climate change plays an additional role in driving reef loss," he said.

Tamelander said the decline in coastal ecosystems' health and productivity can be reversed by shifting to greener and more sustainable strategies, addressing threats and better management that involves all stakeholders.

"The sooner we act, the easier it will be and the longer we wait the harder it will be," he warned.

Life & Style

'Hugo,' 'Artist' inject cinema nostalgia to Oscars

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—American master Martin Scorsese journeyed to France, putting Hollywood's newest technology to work for his dazzling 3-D re-creation of 1930s Paris in "Hugo." French filmmaker Michel Hazanavicius came to America, reviving old-time Hollywood with his charming resurrection of early cinema in the silent film "The Artist."

The two films now head a 21st century Academy Awards show whose top nominees offer loving looks back to the infancy of moviemaking, when flicks really flickered and cutting-edge visual effects amounted to actors jumping out of the frame while the camera was stopped so they would seem to magically disappear.

Scorsese's Paris adventure "Hugo" led contenders Tuesday with 11 nominations, among them best-picture and the latest directing honor for the Oscar-winning filmmaker.

Hazanavicius' "The Artist" ran second with 10 nominations, including honors for the director and Jean Dujardin and Berenice Bejo, the stars of the film that could become the first silent movie to win the best-picture prize since year one at the Oscars.

Also nominated for best picture: Alexander Payne's family drama "The Descendants"; Stephen Daldry's Sept. 11 tale "Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close"; Tate Taylor's Deep South drama "The Help"; Woody Allen's romantic fantasy "Midnight in Paris"; Bennett Miller's sports tale "Moneyball"; Terrence Malick's family chronicle "The Tree of Life"; and Steven Spielberg's World War I epic "War Horse."

Arguably the world's most passionate moviemaker for preserving old films and the heritage of cinema, Scorsese tried his hand at 3-D filmmaking for the first time on "Hugo" and crafted a look with such depth that the images are almost tactile.

"Hugo" follows the adventures of a boy and girl caught up in a mystery surrounding French silent film pioneer George Melies (Ben Kingsley), who stretched the boundaries of cinema with fantastical short movies in the early 1900s.

Today's digital technology made it possible for Scorsese to create his elaborate illusion of long-gone Paris. But the process he describes sounds as experimental and innovative as the work Melies did a century ago.

"It was harder to do because every time we put the camera in a position I wanted, we discovered new ways to do things or wrong ways to do things. We were, in a sense, constantly breaking new ground," Scorsese said. "We had to rediscover how to make movies every day, every setup."

Among the nominations for "Hugo" are adapted screenplay, cinematography, musical score and visual effects.

"The Artist" is a throwback to black-and-white silent days as a superstar of the pre-sound era (best-actor nominee Dujardin) falls on hard times when talking pictures arrive, while a rising star (supporting-actress nominee Bejo) becomes guardian angel for the former screen idol.

"Who knows? It might be possible that he's set off a chain reaction, and we're off for 100 years of silent movies," Dujardin said. "I would love it. It's really fun for an actor. It's very playful, and it's pure emotion. In the end, you only see what is essential. You take away the intellect, and what's left is life."

Along with his directing honor, Hazanavicius was nominated for original screenplay on "The Artist." The film's other nominations include musical score, cinematography and costume design.

While "Hugo" and "The Artist" are testaments to early filmmaking, another key nomination is a tribute to the big-screen's most famous sex symbol, Marilyn Monroe, a superstar who was never nominated for an Oscar. Michelle Williams earned a best-actress nomination as Monroe in "My Week with Marilyn."

"I would like to think that the recognition our film has received by the academy is a testament to Marilyn's legacy," Williams said.

Williams' competition includes Meryl Streep, who extended her record for most acting nominations to 17 with a best-actress honor as Margaret Thatcher in "The Iron Lady."

Also nominated: Glenn Close for the Irish drama "Albert Nobbs," Viola Davis for "The Help" and Rooney Mara for the thriller "The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo."

Dujardin, the Golden Globe winner for best actor in a musical or comedy, will be up against Globe dramatic actor recipient George Clooney for "The Descendants," in which the Oscar-winning superstar plays a down-to-earth role as a dad in crisis. While Dujardin and Clooney were almost assured of nominations, there were big surprises across-the-board, with longshots making the cut and favorites getting skunked.

Tom Hanks and Sandra Bullock's "Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close," which got mixed reviews and has not been much of a factor at earlier Hollywood awards, was a very unexpected best-picture nominee. Co-star Max von Sydow was a surprise nominee for supporting actor.

Malick's "The Tree of Life" also had been considered a bit of a best-picture longshot. The movie, which won top honors at last May's Cannes Film Festival but was a love-it-or-hate-it

See HUGO on Next Page

In this image released by Paramount Pictures, Asa Butterfield portrays Hugo Cabret in a scene from "Hugo." AP

OSCAR 2012 nominations

The 84rh annual Academy Awards will be presented Feb. 26. Nominees in major categories:

Best actor
- **Demian Bichir** "A Better Life"
- **George Clooney** "The Descendants"
- **Jean Dujardin** "The Artist"
- **Gary Oldman** "Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy"
- **Brad Pitt** "Moneyball"

Best actress
- **Glenn Close** "Albert Nobbs"
- **Viola Davis** "The Help"
- **Rooney Mara** "Girl With the Dragon Tattoo"
- **Meryl Streep** "The Iron Lady"
- **Michelle Williams** "My Week With Marilyn"

Best director
- **Michael Hazanavicius** "The Artist"
- **Alexander Payne** "The Descendants"
- **Martin Scorsese** "Hugo"
- **Woody Allen** "Midnight in Paris"
- **Terebce Malick** "The Tree of Life"

Best supporting actor
- **Kenneth Branagh** "... With Marilyn"
- **Jonah Hill** "Moneyball"
- **Nick Nolte** "Warrior"
- **Christopher Plummer** "Beginners"
- **Max von Sydow** "Extremely Loud ..."

Best supporting actress
- **Berenice Bejo** "The Artist"
- **Jessica Chastain** "The Help"
- **Melissa McCarthy** "Bridesmaids"
- **Janet McTeer** "Albert Nobbs"
- **Octavia Spencer** "The Help"

Best picture
- "The Artist"
- "The Descendants"
- "Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close"
- "The Help"
- "Hugo"
- "Midnight in Paris"
- "Moneyball"
- "Tree of Life"
- "War Horse"

Best foreign language film
- **"Bullhead"** Belgium
- **"Footnote"** Israel
- **"In Darkness"** Poland
- **"Monsieur Lazhar"** Canada
- **"A Separation"** Iran

Best documentary
- "Hell and Back Again"
- "If a Tree Falls ..."
- "Paradise Lost 3: Purgatory "
- "Pina"
- "Undefeated"

Best animated feature
- "A Cat in Paris"
- "Chico & Rita"
- "Kung Fu Panda 2"
- "Puss in Boots"
- "Rango"

© 2012 MCT

Source: Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences
Graphic: Pat Carr

5TH YEAR DEATH ANNIVERSARY
Remembering……
Roma May Mendiola Diaz Aranda
Five years ago, our beloved wife, mother, grandmother, and sister in remembrance of her passing away, we the family invite our relatives and friends to join us as we begin the traditional nine days of daily masses beginning Friday, January 27th through Saturday, February 4th, 2012 at 6:00PM at the San Vicente Church.
On the final day, Saturday, February 4, 2012, dinner will be served immediately after the mass at the San Vicente Social Hall.
Your prayers, thoughts and presence will forever be appreciated.
From Children and Family…

HOLLYWOOD THEATERS

Don't just go to the movies, GO HOLLYWOOD!

Located near Price Costco in San Jose Saipan MP • 234-9000

POWER 99 FM SAIPAN, CNMI

$6.00	Bargain Matinees - All Shows Before 6PM
$6.00	All Day Admission For Seniors
$4.75	All Day Admission For Kids (ages 3-11)
$6.00	Student Admission with Valid I.D.
$6.00	Military with Valid I.D.

TIMEWARP TUESDAY
$6.00 ALL SHOWS ALL DAY/NIGHT (EXCLUDING HOLIDAYS AND RESTRICTED FEATURES)

RESERVE TICKETS ONLINE AT www.gohollywood.com

dts DOLBY DIGITAL STADIUM SEATING WITH HIGH-BACK LOVESEATS

Friday, Jan. 20th through Thursday, Jan. 26th, 2012
OPEN SEVEN DAYS A WEEK

★ ★ ★ NOW SHOWING ★ ★ ★

Haywire

Friday		4:10	7:10	9:30
Saturday	1:10	4:10	7:10	9:30
Sunday	1:10	4:10	7:10	
Monday thru Thursday		4:10	7:10	

Gina Carano, Michael Douglas
Thriller, Spy film • Rated R

Synopsis

Mixed martial arts fighter Gina Carano makes her feature-film debut as a lethal government contractor who's betrayed by her own agency in this action thriller from writer Lem Dobbs (The Limey) and director Steven Soderbergh (Traffic, Contagion). Mallory Kane (Carano) is the woman the U.S. government calls on to take care of their dirty work. She's fast, efficient, and—perhaps most important of all—clean. But when Mallory makes the mistake of saving a Chinese journalist from certain death, she becomes an enemy to the very same government she once served. Mallory isn't going down without a fight, though, and after a close brush with death, she realizes that the only way to save her own life is to reveal the government's deception.

Underworld: Awakening

Friday		4:25	7:25	9:40
Saturday	1:25	4:25	7:25	9:40
Sunday	1:25	4:25	7:25	
Monday thru Thursday		4:25	7:25	

Kate Beckinsale, Stephen Rea
Horror • Rated R

Red Tails

Friday		4:05	7:05	9:45
Saturday	1:05	4:05	7:05	9:45
Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:05	
Monday thru Thursday		4:05	7:05	

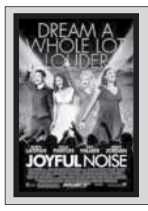
Cuba Gooding, Jr., Terrence Howard
War • Rated PG 13

★ ★ ★

Contraband

Friday		4:20	7:20	9:35
Saturday	1:20	4:20	7:20	9:35
Sunday	1:20	4:20	7:20	
Monday thru Thursday		4:20	7:20	

Mark Wahlberg, Kate Beckinsale
Action • Rated R



Joyful Noise

Friday		4:30	7:30	9:50
Saturday	1:30	4:30	7:30	9:50
Sunday	1:30	4:30	7:30	
Monday thru Thursday		4:30	7:30	

Queen Latifah, Dolly Parton
Comedy • Rated PG 13

War Horse

Friday		4:00	7:00	10:00
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00	10:00
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Monday thru Thursday		4:00	7:00	

Jeremy Irvine, Emily Watson
Drama, War • Rated PG 13

Mission Impossible: Ghost Protocol

Friday		7:15	9:55
Saturday		7:15	9:55
Sunday		7:15	
Monday thru Thursday		7:15	

Tom Cruise, Jeremy Renner
Spy film, Action • Rated PG 13

Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked

Friday		4:15	
Saturday	1:15	4:15	
Sunday	1:15	4:15	
Monday thru Thursday		4:15	

Jason Lee
Children's/family • Rated G

● NO PASSES ■ NO PASSES OR SUPER SAVERS
GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE • R-RATED FILMS REQUIRE PHOTO I.D.
www.gohollywood.com

'The Artist' star speaks of silent-film challenge

PARIS (AP)—The French star of "The Artist" says its cast and crew knew their challenge by doing a silent, black-and-white film that broke many rules of movies today—a bet that paid off with 10 Oscar nominations.

After the Academy Award nominations were announced Tuesday—including one for him as best actor—Jean Dujardin expressed stupefaction, humility and the difficulties in keeping a cool head amid his new stardom.

"It's a silent film, but boy are people talking about it!" said Dujardin, laughing during an interview on a white sofa at a posh hotel near Paris' Arc de Triomphe.

"The Artist," a love story that tells of the ups and downs faced by a Hollywood silent film star at the advent of talkies, reaped the second-most Oscar nominations after 11 for Martin Scorsese's Paris adventure "Hugo."

French filmmaker Michel Hazanavicius was nominated for writing and directing, and his wife, Berenice Bejo, won a nod in the supporting-actress category. Producer Thomas Lansmann is the son of late filmmaker Claude Berri, ne Lansmann, who produced Best Picture nominee "Tess" in 1981.

The film pays tribute to the early days of Hollywood, and while French, it sought to transcend both nationalities and—as silent film—languages.

AP
French actor Jean Dujardin addresses reporters during an interview with the Associated Press in Paris, Tuesday, Jan. 24, 2012.

"There were no American actors, no French actors," Dujardin said in French, of a cast that included James Cameron and John Goodman. "There were only silent film actors together concentrating on the same project."

Dujardin, 39, is still working on his English—and a language coach broke in at times to help translate—so he said a silent film was about his only way into Hollywood.

"There was an excitement to do a film that's a bit forbidden because in 2011, nobody does a silent, black-and-white film: 'It doesn't fit the economy, it's not possible.'" Dujardin said. "Well yes, it is possible."

With the nominations, could "The Artist" be for reviving silent film what "Avatar" did for 3D?

"I'm not sure there will be a trend of silent movies, but you never know," said Hazanavicius in a separate interview.

The film shot in Los Angeles wasn't meant to "change the face of the industry," the director said, but because "I thought it could be a good movie, and I took my chances."

On top of successes for the movie at the Cannes Film Festival, where Dujardin won best actor, and leading the Golden Globes with three wins this month, Hazanavicius senses his gamble has paid off.

"I really think I'm the happiest director in the world right now," he said. "Maybe not the happiest man in the world—but the happiest director, that's for sure."

3-D dance documentary 'Pina' gets an Oscar nod

LONDON (AP)—Wim Wenders wanted to make a dance movie for 20 years, but had to wait for technology to catch up with his imagination.

The German director said Tuesday that he needed the power of 3-D to make "Pina," a tribute to the late choreographer Pina Bausch that was nominated Tuesday for a best documentary feature Academy Award.

Wenders originally planned to make a film in collaboration with Bausch, director of the innovative Tanztheater Wuppertal, but the film became a tribute to the German choreographer after her death in 2009.

"For 20 years I wished I could imagine this film, and I didn't think I could because my art could not come up with the goods," Wenders said from his Berlin office.

"I think 3-D has a glorious future, especially in the documentary field, because it is the best way to bring an audience into the world of the film."

Another 3-D film, Martin Scorsese's Parisian fantasy "Hugo," leads the Oscars race with 11 nominations.

The other contenders for best documentary feature are Afghan war film "Hell and Back Again"; eco-saga "If a Tree Falls: A Story of the Earth Liberation Front"; high school football documentary "Undefeated"; and "Paradise Lost 3: Purgatory," about the West Memphis Three, U.S. teenagers jailed for a notorious triple child slaying two decades ago. It was nominated despite a request by families of the victims for the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences to exclude the film from consideration.

Winners of the 84th annual Oscars will be announced at a Feb. 26 ceremony in Hollywood.

Wenders, 66, praised the breadth of films being made under the documentary label.

"There are classic documentaries, documentaries that have more of a television language and more ambitious documentaries," he said. "'Waltz With Bashir' a few years ago was a documentary. 'Buena Vista Social Club' (Wenders' Oscar-nominated Cuban music documentary) was a documentary, even if it looked like a fairy tale.

"If it does justice to the thing it is about, that is the main thing."

HUGO

From Page 19

drama among audiences, also picked up a directing nomination for Malick.

Melissa McCarthy, a supporting-actress nominee for the wedding romp "Bridesmaids," is a rare funny lady competing at the Oscars, which seldom honor performances in mainstream comedies.

"I think it's a big coup for all of us," McCarthy said. "If you get the right thing and the right people, you can still make a really good movie that's still a comedy."

Demian Bichir also was a surprise nominee as best actor for "A Better Life," an immigrant drama that few people have seen. Bichir said he had been ill the night before and learned he was nominated when his girlfriend called with the news.

"I thought it was part of my hallucinations from the fever," Bichir said. "A nomination helps. I feel a lot better already."

Along with Bichir, Clooney and Dujardin, the best-actor contenders are Gary Oldman for the espionage tale "Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy" and Brad Pitt for the baseball story in "Moneyball."

Pitt's third Oscar nomination came for a film that he fought to make after it went on the back-burner amid screenplay and director changes.

"This one is more satisfying than ever," said Pitt, who also shared a best-picture nomination as a producer on "Moneyball." "This movie was dead in the water two and a half years ago."

Among those with strong prospects that came away empty-handed were Leonardo DiCaprio for "J. Edgar," from perennial Oscar heavyweight Clint Eastwood, whose latest film did not score a single nomination.

While Spielberg's best-picture contender "War Horse" picked up six nominations, the Oscar-winning filmmaker missed out in the directing category, a prize he has won twice. His first cartoon feature, the Golden Globe-winning "The Adventures of Tintin," also did not make the list for best animated film.

The animated films that did make it: "A Cat in Paris," "Chico & Rita," Kung Fu Panda 2," "Puss in Boots" and "Rango."

Besides von Sydow, supporting-actor nominees are Kenneth Branagh for "My Week with Marilyn," Jonah Hill for "Moneyball," Nick Nolte for the extreme-fighting drama "Warrior" and Christopher Plummer for the father-son story "Beginners."

Plummer won at the Globes for his role as an elderly dad who comes out as gay. At 82, Plummer would be the oldest acting winner ever at the Oscars; Jessica Tandy now holds that position for her best-actress win in "Driving Miss Daisy" at age 80.

Joining Bejo and McCarthy in the supporting-actress field is Octavia Spencer, whose Globe win as a fiery maid in "The Help" positions her as a possible front-runner.

Spencer's "The Help" co-star Jessica Chastain also is nominated, along with Janet McTeer for "Albert Nobbs."

Winners at the 84th annual Oscars will be announced at a Feb. 26 ceremony aired live on ABC from Hollywood's Kodak Theatre, with Billy Crystal returning as host for the first time in eight years.

Okla. hospital must return $500K to Garth Brooks

CLAREMORE, Okla. (AP)—An Oklahoma hospital in Garth Brooks' hometown must return a $500,000 donation to the country singer because it failed to build a women's health center in honor of his late mother, jurors ruled Tuesday evening.

Jurors also awarded punitive damages in Brooks' breach-of-contract lawsuit against IntegrisCanadian Valley Regional Hospital in Yukon. Brooks said he thought he'd reached a deal in 2005 with the hospital's president, James Moore, but sued after learning the hospital wanted to use the money for other construction projects.

The hospital argued that Brooks gave it unrestricted access to the money and only later asked that it build a women's center and name it after his mother, Colleen Brooks, who died of cancer in 1999.

Brooks left the courtroom shortly after the verdict was read. Jurors were expected to announce how much money he would be awarded in punitive damages later Tuesday evening.

"Obviously we are disappointed, particularly with the jury's decision to award damages above and beyond the $500,000," Integris spokesman Hardy Watkins said. "We're just glad to see the case come to a resolution."

During the trial, Brooks testified that he thought he had a solid agreement with Moore. Brooks said the hospital president initially suggested putting his mother's name on an intensive care unit, and when Brooks said that wouldn't fit her image, Moore suggested a women's center.

AP

Country singer Garth Brooks leaves a courtroom during a civil trial at the Rogers County Courthouse in Claremore, Okla. on Monday, Jan. 23, 2012.

"I jumped all over it," Brooks told jurors in tearful testimony. "It's my mom. My mom was pregnant as a teenager. She had a rough start. She wanted to help every kid out there."

His attorney told the jury during closing arguments that Brooks kept his end of the agreement.

"This case is about promises: promises made and promises broken," lawyer John Hickey told jurors shortly before they started deliberating. "Mr. Brooks kept his promise. Integris never intended to keep their promise and never built a new women's center."

But hospital attorney Terry Thomas said Brooks' gift initially came in anonymously and unrestricted in 2005. He also noted that Brooks couldn't remember key details of negotiations with the hospital's president—including what he'd been promised—when questioned during a deposition after filing his lawsuit in 2009.

"At most, it was a misunderstanding between these two," Thomas told jurors during his closing argument. "Am I calling Mr. Brooks a liar? Absolutely not. It's perfectly understandable that he does not remember these events."

The jury began deliberating Tuesday afternoon in Rogers County District Court, and the judge told jurors she wanted them to work as late as midnight to come to a decision.

Before the verdict was read, Brooks said the day had been emotional. The country music star said he was simply trying to honor his mother.

"This little pistol, she deserves nothing but good," Brooks said.

Demi Moore seeks treatment for exhaustion

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A spokeswoman for Demi Moore says the actress is seeking professional help to treat her exhaustion and improve her health.

Publicist Carrie Gordon says the decision is due to the stresses in Moore's life, and she looks forward to getting well.

Gordon did not release any other details about the nature or location of Moore's treatment.

The past few months have been rocky for Moore. She released a statement in November announcing she had decided to end her marriage to Ashton Kutcher following news of alleged infidelity. The two were known to publicly share their affection for one another via Twitter.

Moore still has a Twitter account under the name mrskutcher but has not posted any messages since Jan. 7.

James funeral planned; Al Sharpton to eulogize

NEW YORK (AP)—A public viewing will be held Friday for singer Etta James, and the Rev. Al Sharpton will eulogize the late legend at a private funeral Saturday.

A statement from Sharpton's representative Tuesday said the funeral will include performances by celebrities, but those names were not announced.

James

James died last Friday at age 73 after battling leukemia and other ailments, including dementia. She was most famous for her classic "At Last," but over her decades-long career, she became revered for her passionate singing voice.

The public viewing will be held in Inglewood and the funeral will be held in Gardena, both in the Los Angeles area.

The family is asking that any donations be sent to the Philadelphia-based Rhythm & Blues Foundation.

LA mayor signs law requiring condoms in porn films

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Actors in adult movies filmed in Los Angeles will be required to use condoms under an ordinance signed into law by Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, and porn industry leaders say the regulation could lead them to abandon the nation's porn capital.

The law, signed Monday, will take effect 41 days after it is posted by the city clerk, something that could happen as early as this week.

Officials with the AIDS Healthcare Foundation, which lobbied for years for such a law, expressed jubilation Tuesday and said they would now turn their attention to getting a similar condom requirement adopted elsewhere.

"The city of Los Angeles has done the right thing. They've done the right thing for the performers," said Michael Weinstein, president of the AIDS Healthcare Foundation, which had pushed the measure for six years.

He said its adoption is crucial in protecting adult film actors from HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases.

Weinstein said his group's next move will be to get Los Angeles County to adopt a similar measure for its unincorporated areas.

The group is in the midst of a petition drive to put the issue on the ballot, but Weinstein said he hopes the county's Board of Supervisors will react as the Los Angeles City Council did and pass such an ordinance itself. The council gave its final approval last week.

Industry officials estimate as many as 90 percent of the porn films produced in the United States are made in Los Angeles. Most are filmed quietly in the city's suburban San Fernando Valley.

After the council's action, several of the industry's biggest filmmakers said they might consider moving just outside the county. That prompted Simi Valley Mayor Bob Huber to announce last week that he would ask the city attorney for his community, located just across the county line from the San Fernando Valley, to write a similar ordinance.

Weinstein said Tuesday his group would also be vigilant in keeping track of where porn producers might go.

Exactly how the law will be enforced is still to be determined.

It calls for makers of porn films to pay a fee, the amount still to be determined, that would be used to pay for spot checks at filming locations.

The City Council is creating a committee to determine the amount of the fee and who would make the spot checks.

Weinstein said he envisions enforcement would fall on nurses or other public health providers.

Good week for Maras: Super Bowl, Oscar nomination

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP)—First the Super Bowl, now an Oscar nomination.

It's been quite a week for Chris Mara, the son of the late owner of the New York Giants, Wellington Mara.

On Sunday, the Giants beat the 49ers in the NFC championship game to earn a berth in the Super Bowl against the New England Patriots on Feb. 5. On Tuesday, his daughter, Rooney Mara, was among the nominees for best actress for "The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo."

Mara

Mara, the Giants vice president of player personnel, said the past three days have been surreal.

"Being able to share the victory in San Francisco with all my kids was very special," he said in an email to The Associated Press. "I'm just glad the 49er faithful did not recognize my 2 daughters Kate and Rooney sitting amongst them because they are a pretty rough crowd on the visitors.

He called the Oscar nomination "very special.

"I was sitting home by myself watching the broadcast and I gave a pretty big yell after I heard her name. Then I cried a little and went to church and lit a few candles on the way to work and called her. Needless to say it's been an exciting few days."

Also nominated for best actress are Michelle Williams for "My Week with Marilyn," Meryl Streep in "The Iron Lady," Glenn Close for "Albert Nobbs" and Viola Davis for "The Help."

The Oscar winners will be announced Feb. 26.

Mom is miffed that birthday party was a shopping spree

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My 12-year-old daughter, "Mandy," was invited to a friend's birthday party along with 12 other girls. They were told to meet at the mall where they'd "go shopping" together, then go for a sleepover afterward.

The birthday girl told her friends to bring money as gifts. Well, she raked in more than $300 then proceeded to spend it all on herself while her friends stood and watched. Mandy returned home the next day and told me that although the girl spent the money on herself, her mom did buy them each a beverage.

Abby, I gave my daughter $20 to go to the party, thinking the money would be for all of their fun—not the birthday girl's financial gain. I thought your readers might want to learn from my mistake. These days, a birthday party may not be a party at all!

HORRIFIED IN WICHITA

DEAR HORRIFIED: While this may have been shocking to you, the kind of party you have described may be acceptable to your daughter and her circle of friends. The birthday girl's intentions could have been made more clear—she requested money as gifts and instructed everyone to meet at the mall. However, they accepted the invitation on her terms. The sleepover may have been the party. I hope they were fed after the mall crawl because they must have been starving.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My dad died unexpectedly last year, three months before my 18th birthday. He had been kicked out of the house a few months prior to that because he was a horrible alcoholic who destroyed everything he ever cared about. He froze to death, alone.

My boyfriend is my soul mate. He has been my only source of support since Dad died. Mom ignores everything and has left me alone to go through all of this, spending my Social Security on vacations we could never have afforded before. My best friend is away at school in a different state and I'm more alone than ever. How am I supposed to survive all this alone?

ALWAYS ALONE

DEAR ALONE: Please accept my sympathy for the tragic loss of your father, who paid the ultimate price for his addiction. You write well and are obviously intelligent. If you're still in school, counseling may be available for you if there is a counselor on staff. Because your mother is emotionally unavailable and your best friend is out of state, your friend's mother might be willing to listen and advise you during this difficult period.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My mother-in-law is a widow. She says she no longer wants to be addressed as Mrs. because she is not married. I thought that once married you were always a Mrs. unless you choose to be a Ms. Isn't it proper for a widow to be addressed as Mrs.?

DAUGHTER-IN-LAW IN WASHINGTON STATE

DEAR DAUGHTER-IN-LAW: As a widow your mother-in-law can continue to use her married name -- or adopt any name she chooses. If she prefers not to be called Mrs. her wishes should be respected. Some widows prefer to be called "Mrs. John Jones" for the rest of their lives, while others do not. If your mother-in-law prefers "Ms. Betty Jones," that's fine, too. It's a personal choice.

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

■■■

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

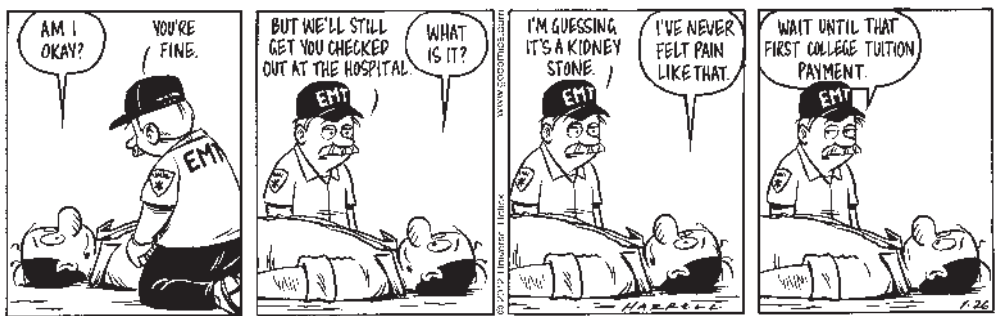
Garfield®

By Jim Davis

DO YOU MIND IF I GAZE INTO YOUR EYES, LIZ?
NOT AT ALL
I WASN'T TRYING TO HYPNOTIZE HIM. IT JUST HAPPENED
MAKE HIM CLUCK LIKE A CHICKEN!

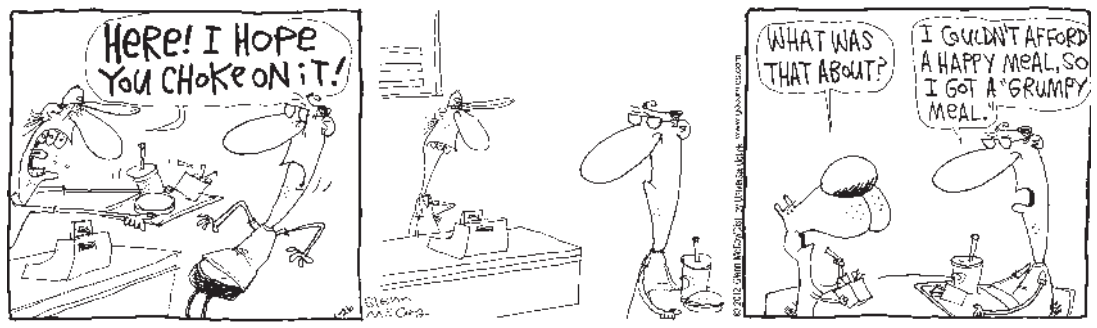
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


AM I OKAY?
YOU'RE FINE.
BUT WE'LL STILL GET YOU CHECKED OUT AT THE HOSPITAL.
WHAT IS IT?
I'M GUESSING IT'S A KIDNEY STONE.
I'VE NEVER FELT PAIN LIKE THAT.
WAIT UNTIL THAT FIRST COLLEGE TUITION PAYMENT.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Put on layaway, perhaps
5 Fool
8 Capri or Wight
12 Appellation
13 Hockey legend Bobby
14 Blunder
15 Stone-street of "Modern Family"
16 Keanu's "Matrix" role
17 One
18 Bounded
20 Jimmy Carter's Georgia home
22 Angry group
23 Hostel
24 React in horror
27 Loads, as software
32 Id counterpart
33 Old Olds
34 Fine, to NASA
35 Herring's cousin
38 Go back and forth
39 Fireworks response
40 Go blue?
42 French brandy
45 Fireplace area
49 Shrek is one
50 Mimic
52 Will be (Sp.)
53 Dispatch
54 Mainlander's memento
55 Not procrastinating
56 Fixes a skirt
57 Felon's flight
58 Iditarod terminus

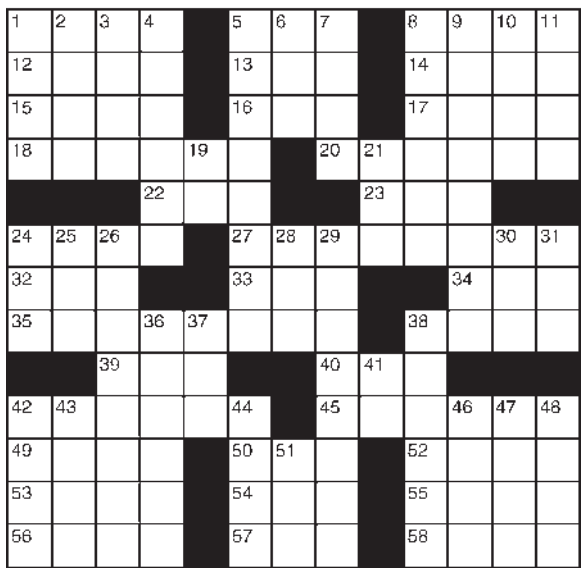
DOWN

1 Change for a five
2 Distort
3 Eastern potentate
4 Leave suddenly
5 Sparrow or skylark
6 Exist
7 Item on stage
8 Tropical lizard
9 New family member
10 Pork cut
11 Salamanders
19 "Forget it!"
21 Torched
24 Jewel
25 Census statistic
26 Ultrasound image
28 Born
29 Author of "Finishing the Hat"
30 Mauna —
31 The air up there
36 Sweethearts
37 "Caught ya!"
38 Spring, for one
41 "As — sow ..."
42 Brit's blackjack
43 Lecher's look
44 Be an umpire
46 Gambling mecca
47 Decorate
48 Loathe
51 Shell game item

Solution time: 25 mins.

S	A	F	F	■	S	I	N	■	S	P	R	Y
O	X	E	N	■	K	O	I	■	C	L	U	E
P	L	E	D	G	I	N	G	■	H	U	L	A
H	E	T	U	P	■	■	H	A	M	M	E	R
■	■	■	R	O	T	C	■	L	O	B	■	■
L	O	P	E	■	R	E	N	T	■	I	R	A
A	W	L	■	V	I	D	E	O	■	N	U	N
G	F	O	■	A	P	E	X	■	A	G	F	D
■	■	T	A	N	■	S	T	E	W	■	■	■
M	A	T	T	E	S	■	■	R	A	D	I	O
I	R	I	S	■	P	L	A	N	K	I	N	G
N	I	N	E	■	A	I	L	■	E	V	I	L
G	A	G	A	■	T	E	E	■	N	A	T	E

Yesterday's answer 1-26



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Sara Rue, 33; Ellen DeGeneres, 54; Eddie Van Halen, 57; Lucinda Williams, 59.

Happy Birthday: You'll come up with interesting concepts that should help you get ahead financially. Taking an old idea and revamping it to suit the current economic climate will lead to greater-than-expected opportunities. Aggressive action will draw unusual comments as well as potential partnerships with people or companies that can contribute to your plans. Your numbers are 8, 12, 21, 28, 30, 34, 42.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Keep a low profile and take care of business. It's important to clean up loose ends so you can assess your situation and move forward with an open mind and a set goal. Don't let emotions interfere with what needs to be done. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Love is in the stars, and a little romance will do you good. Volunteer or offer your services to a campaign you believe in and you will meet someone interesting. Nurturing friendships and business relationships will bring excellent results. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Volatility should be your prime concern. Whether it is in your personal life, an organization you are involved with or a potentially ugly situation, protect your interests and retreat before it's too late. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Live, love and laugh. You have to enjoy life, not let it pass you by or just endure it. Let down your guard a little and experience new people, places and interests. Take action. Make changes at home that add to your comfort. ✪✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You'll be tempted to overspend on people and on items you don't need. Impulsiveness and spontaneity can be wonderful attributes, but can also get you into trouble. Stick close to home and avoid fast-talking sales people. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): You'll be drawn to people who are aggressive and who know how to get things done. Take part in whatever is going on around you and you will enjoy the results you get. Not everything has to be perfect to work. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Look, see and do. It's up to you to take charge and to make things happen. Finish jobs and enjoy the company of your peers and colleagues. Interacting with others will lead to bigger and better opportunities. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Put more effort into your home, family and domestic life. A couple of adjustments can make your home more comfortable and entertaining. Love is in the stars, and time spent with the one you love will enhance your relationships and your life. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Put greater emphasis on your talents and how you can use them to get ahead. Don't let love stand in the way of progress. Emotional matters will escalate if you meddle. Go about your business and let things unfold naturally. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Someone from your past or something you did way back when will have an impact on your life now. Let love flourish, and experience what someone is offering that is unique and comforting. A twist of fate can be expected. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Keep your funds and your possessions in a safe place. You'll be tempted to burn through your assets, resulting in uncertainty regarding something you want to do. Use discipline and hard work to attain your goals. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Keep a level head and everything else will fall into place. A power struggle will not be worth your time and effort. Go it alone if you want to avoid opposition. Your strength and courage will impress someone with clout. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are serious-minded and you aren't afraid to stand alone.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

		3		4				
	9		7			1		
1				9			8	
	8				7			
7		5		2		3		4
			3				2	
	2			3				6
		9			2		4	
				5		8		

Difficulty Level ★★★ 1/26

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

6	1	4	8	9	7	5	2	3
7	8	5	2	3	6	1	4	9
3	9	2	4	5	1	6	8	7
9	4	7	3	1	8	2	5	6
2	5	3	6	7	4	8	9	1
1	6	8	9	2	5	7	3	4
8	2	6	1	4	3	9	7	5
5	3	1	7	8	9	4	6	2
4	7	9	5	6	2	3	1	8

Difficulty Level ★★★ 1/26

©2010 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

MICHAEL FASSBENDER Solution: 7 letters

P	A	B	P	P	L	E	G	N	A	H	T	A	G	A
E	R	Z	A	R	I	E	S	T	E	L	I	O	S	S
A	E	O	A	T	O	T	S	I	Ⓔ	H	C	I	T	Y
N	M	C	D	Z	T	M	C	S	Ⓨ	H	P	R	U	M
U	A	E	H	U	E	L	E	H	Ⓡ	J	A	C	K	S
T	H	N	A	R	C	A	E	T	Ⓔ	E	U	R	H	R
O	S	T	R	A	I	T	L	F	H	Y	L	E	W	E
R	A	U	C	H	N	S	I	A	I	E	D	E	A	H
I	N	R	H	O	N	H	T	O	K	E	U	K	R	T
O	D	I	I	L	A	E	R	I	N	E	L	S	R	O
P	S	O	E	M	M	R	E	V	E	T	S	D	I	R
H	U	N	G	E	R	L	A	E	M	S	E	N	O	B
W	A	L	W	S	E	O	S	W	I	M	B	I	R	D
J	Y	B	L	O	H	C	O	O	P	E	R	I	C	I
R	E	B	L	A	C	K	N	W	O	T	R	I	A	L

© 2012 Universal Uclick www.wonderword.com Join us on Facebook 1/26

Agatha, Angel, Archie, Aries, Azazeal, Battlefield, Bird, Black, Bones, Brothers, Centurion, Christies, City, Cooper, Creek, Eden, Eric, Esme, Eyre, Hearts, Heist, Hermann, Holby, Holmes, Hunger, Jack, Jane, Lake, Law, Murphys, Paul, Peanut, Pitch, Poirot, Production, Prometheus, Sands, Shame, Sherlock, Stelios, Steve, Swim, Town, Treason, Trial, Warrior

Yesterday's Answer: Conference

SALE: The rights of Wonderword for Kids appeal to young fans but the puzzles differ, for instance, what you're come to expect in Wonderword. For a limited time, the book is on sale for $3.95 each (U.S. funds only; payable to Universal Uclick; no credit cards; postage for the first book order, $5 per for each additional book. Send to Wonderword, 1130 Walnut, Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free, 1-800-642-5483

CLASSIFIED ADS

EMPLOYMENT

(1) General Manager: $3,000/mo. Bachelor's degree and at least 4 years' experience as general manager in a hotel environment is required. Korean writing and speaking fluency required. (1) Hotel Manager: $1,500/mo. College degree and at least 4 years' experience as hotel manager required. Korean and Japanese writing and speaking fluency required. Email resume to Changshin Resort Saipan Corporation at changshin@hanmisaipan.com. For inquiries, call 235-2111.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Lower Navy Hill Apts. Newly renovated bldg., 3BR & 2BTH. Rooms w/A/C & fully furnished. Back-up generator. Free Wi-Fi, EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nightime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Right behind NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Special rates for NMC faculty/students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

WHATZIT Solution:
You Tube

WANTED

(1) Barber and (1) Beautician
with 2 year experience, pleasing personality
With good moral character.

Interested applicants may call or submit resume to Genoveva's Hair Power, Inc.
Tel. 234-6378 or 234-9226.

Subscribe to the CNMI's
First Daily Newspaper
Call 235- NEWS
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
FRIDAY JANUARY 7, 2011
Sablan, other delegates come out swinging as 112th Congress starts

WANTED TO BUY

Looking for used cars. Year 2003 & up. 4 cylinder, Good condition. We pay cash! Pls. call 287-7676

Make it your daily habit.
Log on to www.saipantribune.com

WORLD RESORT

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

OPEN DATE: January 19, 2012
CLOSE DATE: January 27, 2012
POSITION: Accountant
SALARY: $5.05~$6.00/per hour

Qualifications: High School graduate or equivalent. Minimum two years experience in accounting required. Formal education/training in accounting highly recommended.

OPEN DATE: January 19, 2012
CLOSE DATE: January 27, 2012
POSITION: Guest Relation Officer
SALARY: $5.05~$6.00/per hour

Qualifications: High School graduate or equivalent required. Experience in a hotel front desk and/or concierge position strongly preferred. Proficiency in Chinese and Korean language is highly preferred. Will also consider Japanese and Russian speakers. Must have excellent people skills, willingness to provide service, friendly attitude and a ready smile.

OPEN DATE: January 19, 2012
CLOSE DATE: January 27, 2012
POSITION: Steward
SALARY: $5.05/per hour

Qualifications: High School graduate or equivalent. The position may require employee to receive certain food handler related health examinations and clearances before hire and continue to receive such examinations and clearances as a condition to their continue employment. Minimum two (2) years experience in food service preferred.

OPEN DATE: January 19, 2012
CLOSE DATE: January 27, 2012
POSITION: Prim/Lifeguard
SALARY: $5.05/per hour

Qualifications: High School graduate or equivalent. First-aid and Lifeguard certifications preferred, but not required. Sports, recreation, and hospitality industry experience also a plus.

For more information, please contact Ms. Miriam K. Seman, Human Resources Manager at (670) 234-5900 ext. 274/266.

Employment application forms are available at the Saipan World Resort, Security Office, located next to the Wave Jungle Water Park. Applicants must submit the completed form and all the necessary requirements to the Security Office. Incomplete application will not be received by the Security Office.

POI Aviation
Invites qualified US workers to apply for the following position:

Passenger Service Agent

Requires: High School Diploma, GED or equivalent with 2 years experience in passenger or customer service. Assists passengers by answering inquiries regarding flight information/booking/reservations, checking-in out-bound passengers and luggage and assisting them in boarding flights, assisting in-bound passengers through immigration and customs. Must be computer-literate with excellent oral and written communication skills in English. Must be able to lift 70 pounds. Able to work nights, weekends, holidays, varied schedules.

Applications can be obtained at the POI Aviation Office at the Continental Cargo Building at the airport. Salaries will be commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted not later than January 27, 2012. Back ground checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

POI Aviation is an Equal Opportunity Employer
Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.

VEHICLE FOR SALE

2005 NISSAN ALTIMA

For more information, please contact Bank of Guam through its counsel, Robert T. Torres at (670) 234-7859 / 234-5750

Bids will be closed on
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2012 AT 6:00PM

The Bank reserves the right to reject any or all offers

Bank of Guam through counsel
Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law
Chalan Kiya, P. O. Box 503758 CK, Saipan, MP 96950

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$27
• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

U GROUND LONDON

WHATZIT? © 2012 www.whatzit.com
Distributed by Universal Uclick

www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames

Find today's solution in classified section

Source: Fielder and Tigers agree on 9-year deal

DETROIT (AP)—The Detroit Tigers responded to a jarring injury with an audacious move.

Free-agent first baseman Prince Fielder and the Tigers agreed Tuesday to a nine-year, $214 million contract that fills the AL Central champions' need for a power hitter, a person familiar with the deal said.

Detroit boldly stepped up in the Fielder sweepstakes after the recent knee injury to star Victor Martinez. A week ago, the Tigers announced the productive designated hitter could miss the entire season after tearing his left ACL during offseason conditioning.

CBS first reported the agreement with Fielder.

The person told The Associated Press the deal was subject to a physical. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the contract was not yet complete.

The Tigers won their division by 15 games before losing in the AL championship series to Texas. Adding the 27-year-old Fielder gives the Tigers two of the game's premier sluggers, pairing him with Miguel Cabrera.

With Fielder now in the fold, general manager Dave Dombrowski and owner Mike Ilitch have a team that figures to enter the 2012 season as a favorite to repeat in the division—with an eye on winning the franchise's first World Series title since 1984.

AP

In this July 12, 2011 file photo, National League's Prince Fielder of the Milwaukee Brewers holds his MVP award after the Major League Baseball All-Star baseball game, in Phoenix.

"Everyone knew Mr. Ilitch and Mr. Dombrowski were going to make a move when Victor went down," outfielder Brennan Boesch said in a phone interview with the AP. "But I don't think anybody thought it would be this big."

The move also keeps Fielder's name in the Tigers' family. His father, Cecil, became a big league star when he returned to the majors from Japan and hit 51 home runs with Detroit in 1990. Cecil played with the Tigers into the 1996 season, and young Prince made a name for himself by hitting prodigious home runs in batting practice at Tiger Stadium.

A few years ago, when Prince returned to Detroit as a member of the Milwaukee Brewers, Tigers Hall of Famer Al Kaline recalled that power show.

"You can't ever say that you look at a kid that age and say that you know he's going to hit 40 or 50 home runs someday, but Prince was unbelievable," Kaline said then. "Here's a 12-year-old kid commonly hitting homers at a big league ballpark."

In an interview with MLB Network Radio on SiriusXM, Cecil Fielder said he was "shocked" by the news that Prince was heading to Detroit.

"He's been there in Detroit most of his young life so I think he'll be comfortable in that place," Cecil Fielder said. "I know Mr. Ilitch is probably excited because he's been wanting that kid since he was a little kid, so he finally got his wish."

With Cabrera and Fielder, Detroit will begin this season with two players under age 30 with at least 200 career homers. According to STATS LLC, that's happened only once before. At the start of the 1961 season, the Milwaukee Braves featured 29-year-old Eddie Mathews (338 homers) and 27-year-old Hank Aaron (219).

Several teams had shown interest this winter in Fielder, who had spent his entire career with the Brewers. He visited Texas, and the Washington Nationals also got involved in the discussions.

The beefy slugger hit .299 with 38 home runs and 120 RBIs last season. He is a three-time All-Star and was the MVP of last year's event in Phoenix.

Fielder has averaged 40 homers and 113 RBIs over the past five years. He's also been among the most durable players in the majors, appearing in at least 157 games in each of the last six seasons.

Fielder hits left-handed, while Cabrera is a righty. Manager Jim Leyland will get to decide where to put them in the batting order.

"I don't think there's a better right-left combo in any lineup in baseball," Boesch said. "I'm sure Skip's wheels are already turning on how to set them up."

The deal is only the fourth $200 million contract in baseball history, following Alex Rodriguez's $275 million, 10-year contract with the New York Yankees, A-Rod's $252 million, 10-year deal with Texas and Albert Pujols' $240 million, 10-year contract last month with the Los Angeles Angels.

Among current players, Fielder's $23.78 million average salary is behind only A-Rod ($27.5 million), Ryan Howard ($25 million), and Cliff Lee and Pujols ($24 million each).

Dombrowski indicated last week he'd probably seek a short-term solution to Martinez's injury, but he left himself some wriggle room, saying it depended who the replacement was.

Acquiring Fielder opens all sorts of possibilities. For now, Detroit has an opening at DH with Martinez out. But Martinez is in the second year of a $50 million, four-year contract.

One option could be to move Cabrera from first base to third. He played third base regularly for the Florida Marlins before the Tigers acquired him before the 2008 season.

Third baseman Brandon Inge has one year left on a two-year, $11.5 million deal with Detroit.

The Tigers reached the World Series in 2006, but they appeared to be in cost-cutting mode when they traded popular center fielder Curtis Granderson to the New York Yankees after the 2009 season.

It turned out they were simply re-allocating resources. They quickly signed ace Justin Verlander to a five-year deal in early 2010, then added Martinez and standout reliever Joaquin Benoit last offseason.

Long lines to bid farewell to Paterno

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. (AP)—Decked out in Penn State hats and jackets, students and townspeople stood in a line more than a quarter-mile long Tuesday to pay their respects to Joe Paterno, the coach who for nearly a half century was the face of their university.

Mourners waited for hours along a main campus artery for the chance to file past Paterno's closed brown casket at the campus spiritual center during a public viewing session. Some departed crying. All were moved.

"He was my hero. He was my hero. I had to come," said a sobbing Gloria Spicer, who was freshman in 1966 when Paterno started his first season as head coach at Penn State. The 85-year-old Paterno, the winningest coach in major college football history, died Sunday of lung cancer. He had been fired just days before learning of his diagnosis in November.

"He was a teacher to me," Spicer said. "He taught me to be a better person and a better teacher."

Spicer and others walked slowly past the undraped casket which had an "honor guard" of two Penn State players—one past and one present. Six feet away, a stylized, black-and-white photo of a smiling Paterno, arms crossed in front of his chest, sat on an easel.

Large windows bathed the white-walled hall in light on an overcast afternoon. Some of Paterno's family attends church services there.

Members of the public were preceded by the Paterno family—the coach's son, Scott, was seen at the gathering—along with current and former players. The current Nittany Lions wore dark suits and arrived in three blue Penn State buses, the same ones that once carried Paterno and the team to games at Beaver Stadium on fall Saturdays.

Among the former players was Mike McQueary. As a graduate assistant to Paterno in 2002, he went to the coach saying he had witnessed former defensive coordinator Jerry Sandusky assaulting a boy in the shower at the Penn State football building. Paterno relayed that to his bosses—including the head of campus police—but university trustees felt he should have done more, and it played into their decision to oust the longtime coach on Nov. 9. That came four days after Sandusky was arrested on multiple child sex-abuse counts.

Dressed in a blue coat and tie with a white shirt, the school colors, McQueary was among thousands of expected mourners at an event that was to stretch late into Tuesday night. One current and one former team member will stand guard over the casket for the duration of the public viewing, athletic department spokesman Jeff Nelson said.

"Going in there, waiting two hours in line, it was worth every second of it," Penn State junior Rob Gressinger said. "It helps in the grieving process for everybody and I hope the rest of the people that are waiting in line longer than I did, get to experience the same thing."

Earlier Tuesday, a line of ex-players stretched around the corner and down the block. Among the mourners were former Penn State and Pittsburgh Steelers great Franco Harris. Others there included NFL receivers Deon Butler and Jordan Norwood, Norwood's father and Baylor assistant coach Brian Norwood and former quarterback Daryll Clark.

The event marked the first of three days of public mourning as the Penn State community in State College and beyond said goodbye to the man who led the Nittany Lions to 409 wins over 46 years and raised the national profile of the school.

There is another public viewing Wednesday at Pasquerilla Spiritual Center, and after that Paterno's family will hold a private funeral and procession through State College.

On Thursday, the school's basketball arena will be the site of a public service called "A Memorial for Joe." Tickets were quickly snapped up for the event, even though there was a two-per-person limit for those ordering.

Former players began arriving shortly after members of Paterno's last team filed in. Some players hugged, and new Penn State coach Bill O'Brien shook hands with others at the curb outside the center.

Penn State linebacker Khairi Fortt recalled his coach's lessons.

"He said the most important thing for us was to keep the Penn State tradition going," the sophomore from Stamford, Conn., said after leaving the viewing.

Scott Paterno has said that despite the turmoil surrounding his termination from the school, Joe Paterno remained peaceful and upbeat in his final days and still loved Penn State.

Bitterness over Paterno's dismissal has turned up in many forms, from online postings to a rewritten newspaper headline placed next to Paterno's statue at the football stadium blaming the trustees for his death. A headline that read "FIRED" was crossed out and made to read, "Killed by Trustees." Lanny Davis, lawyer for the school's board, said threats have been made against the trustees.

Scott Paterno, however, stressed his father did not die with a broken heart and did not harbor resentment toward Penn State.

"His legacy is still going to be filled with the great things that he did. Look at this place," 1969 Penn State graduate Tom Sherman said before tearing up. "It's like he's part of your life. I admire that guy so much."

Sharapova, Kvitova set up Aussie Open semifinal

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—Former and reigning Wimbledon winners Maria Sharapova and Petra Kvitova will meet in the Australian Open semifinals after both won in straight sets on Wednesday.

Sharapova won 6-2, 6-3, against fellow Russian Ekaterina Makarova, who knocked out five-time champion Serena Williams in the previous round.

Kvitova earlier reached the semifinals at Melbourne Park for the first time with a 6-4, 6-4 win over unseeded Italian Sara Errani.

Kvitova beat Sharapova in last year's Wimbledon final to claim her first Grand Slam title.

"Obviously it was a tough one at Wimbledon," Sharapova said. "She's full of confidence and playing the best tennis right now. I look forward to it."

Sharapova and Kvitova also kept alive their chances of claiming the top ranking, which Caroline Wozniacki will vacate on Monday after her quarterfinal loss to Kim Clijsters.

The fourth-seeded Sharapova must repeat her 2008 Australian title win. Kvitova only has to match or better the run of Victoria Azarenka, the only other player still in the running this week for the No. 1 spot.

Sharapova has dropped one set and lost 21 games en route to her first Australian Open semifinal since she won the 2008 final—the last of her three major titles.

"It's been a long road back to this stage," said Sharapova, who spent 10 months off court with a shoulder injury that required surgery later in 2008.

Kvitova was far from her best against an opponent making her debut in a Grand Slam quarterfinal, and with a 0-24 record against top-10 players. The second-seeded Czech made 44 errors and had to come back from a break down in the second set.

AP

Maria Sharapova of Russia hits a forehand return to compatriot Ekaterina Makarova during their quarterfinal at the Australian Open tennis championship, in Melbourne, Australia, Wednesday, Jan. 25, 2012.

"I was a little nervous because I knew that everybody expect it will be easy match," Kvitova said. "Probably I had in my head that it's a good draw."

The men's semifinal lineup also will be completed Wednesday.

Defending champion Novak Djokovic is up against fifth-seeded David Ferrer in the first match of the night session. Two-time finalist Andy Murray faces Kei Nishikori of Japan.

Two of the so-called "Big Four," Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal, are already through to a marquee semifinal after winning Wednesday.

Federer beat 2009 U.S. Open champion Juan Martin del Potro 6-4, 6-3, 6-2 in his 1,000th tour-level match. Nadal rallied for a 6-7 (5), 7-6 (6), 6-4, 6-3 win over Tomas Berdych.

Their match on Thursday will be their 27th in all and 10th at a major, but their first in a Grand Slam semifinal since 2005.

Yelling "Vamos," disputing line calls, pumping his arms after winning big points and bounding around like a hyperactive kid, Nadal ripped winner after winner against Berdych in a 4-hour, 16-minute display of pure intimidation.

He said he was nervous in the first set—he'd lost in the quarterfinals two straight years—but by the third and fourth sets things had changed.

"The character on court, the way to win the points ... the level is very positive, much, much better than the end of the season," he said. "Semifinals is fantastic result for me."

Federer finished his match with one of his classic, one-handed backhands against Del Potro, one of only two men who have beaten him in a major final. The other is Nadal, who has done it six times.

That lopsided record aside, there's a touch of extra tension this time in this usually cordial rivalry. Nadal had told Spanish reporters during a discussion about player discontent that Federer liked to protect his reputation as a gentleman by saying nothing negative in public and letting others "burn."

Both have since played down the comments. On Tuesday, Federer said it didn't damage their relationship.

"No. No. Honestly, no," he said. "It was here for one day and then gone again. I'm happy about that because it didn't deserve more attention than it did. So for me, it's another great match with Rafa. ... Obviously I'd like to play Rafa because of our great epic match earlier in the finals here a few years ago."

Thursday's match will be the first time they have met at Melbourne Park since Nadal won the 2009 title in five seesawing sets. Nadal collected the trophy from the great Rod Laver after consoling Federer as he sobbed in the background.

"We are talking about a player who has won 16 Grand Slams, and I've won 10," Nadal said. "We have played a lot of matches together, many in very important moments for our careers. So the matches against him are always special, even if we are (ranked) 20 against 25."

The other women's semifinal will feature defending champion Clijsters against third-seeded Azarenka. Clijsters advanced with a 6-3, 7-6 (4) win over Wozniacki, who remains without a major title. Azarenka rallied for a 6-7 (0), 6-0, 6-2 win over eighth-seeded Agnieszka Radwanska.

Magic cruise past Pacers, 102-83

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Orlando's Ryan Anderson had 24 points and eight rebounds to lead the Magic cruise past the Indiana Pacers 102-83, moving into a share of third place in the NBA's Eastern Conference.

Dwight Howard had 14 points and nine rebounds and became the Magic's all-time leading scorer. He came in needing just eight points to break the record. Howard picked up his third foul early in the second quarter and sat for most of the first half.

Anderson shot 8 for 14 from the field, including 5 for 7 on 3-pointers.

Danny Granger and Roy Hibbert scored 16 points each for the Pacers.

Trail Blazers 97, Grizzlies 84

In Portland, LaMarcus Aldridge scored 23 points as Portland snapped Memphis' seven-game winning streak.

Aldridge hit his first five shots and scored 14 points during the first quarter, while Marcus Camby grabbed a season-high 22 rebounds and five blocks.

O.J. Mayo had 20 ponts to lead Memphis.

Heat 92, Cavaliers 85

In Miami, Chris Bosh scored 17 of his 35 points in the fourth quarter to shore up misfiring Miami's unconvincing win over lowly Cleveland.

Bosh made 10 of 16 shots and equalled his highest points total since joining the Heat.

LeBron James added 18 against his old team.

Kyrie Irving—Cleveland's No. 1 overall draft pick last year—scored 17 points on 7-for-11 shooting.

Raptors 99, Suns 96

In Phoenix, Andrea Bargnani returned from injury to score 27 of his 36 points in the second half, guiding Toronto past Phoenix.

The Raptors snapped an eight-game losing skid and beat Phoenix for the first time in eight years. Toronto had lost 14 in a row to Phoenix.

Former Suns star Leandro Barbosa scored 19 for the Raptors.

Marcin Gortat had 21 points and 12 rebounds for the Suns.

Knicks 111, Bobcats 78

In Charlotte, New York snapped its six-game losing skid while deepening Charlotte's own losing spell to five straight.

Tyson Chandler had 20 points and 17 rebounds against his former team, shooting 9 for 10 from the field.

Amar'e Stoudemire chipped in with 18 points and eight rebounds for the Knicks, who dominated inside the key, outrebounding the Bobcats 53-33.

Kemba Walker, starting at point guard in place of D.J. Augustin, led Charlotte with 22 points.

Wizards fire coach Saunders, promote Wittman

WASHINGTON (AP)—Flip Saunders was fired Tuesday as coach of the NBA-worst Washington Wizards and replaced by assistant Randy Wittman, who has the job for the rest of the season.

The Wizards fell to 2-15 this season, including 0-7 on the road, with a 20-point loss to the Philadelphia 76ers on Monday. Washington's next game is at home Wednesday against the Charlotte Bobcats.

"We felt the team had become unresponsive, and we will look to Randy to provide a different voice and a change in philosophy moving forward," Wizards president Ernie Grunfeld said in a statement released by the team. "We have been transparent in how we would evaluate our team this season and we were disappointed in the lack of development of our players at this point in our rebuilding plan."

Saunders was in his third season with the Wizards, going 51-130. When he was hired, the roster featured All-Stars Gilbert Arenas, Antawn Jamison and Caron Butler, but the franchise is now rebuilding around point guard John Wall, the No. 1 overall pick in the 2010 draft.

But there is not a lot of help for Wall, and the Wizards have been prone to inconsistent play, often failing to even be competitive this season. On Monday, they walked down the court for offensive possessions, never hustled after loose balls and couldn't convert the easiest of buckets, missing eight of nine shots in the paint in the first quarter.

After one string of sloppy plays, Saunders took a knee in front of the scorer's table, bowed his head and rubbed his temples.

After the game, Wall said: "Whoever got the ball just took a shot. Guys are holding their heads down, and we're not fighting or competing."

Back in December, before the lockout-shortened season began, Saunders tried to look on the bright said, saying he could envision how the young Wizards could improve on their 23-59 record from 2010-11.

"I want to compete for the playoffs," the coach said then.

But Washington got off to a franchise-worst 0-8 start—half of the losses were by at least 18 points—before beating the Toronto Raptors. Curiously, the Wizards' only other victory came against Kevin Durant and the Oklahoma City Thunder.

Saunders tried finding different ways to motivate players such as Andray Blatche, who was made a captain for the season-opening game, and tinkered a bit with the lineup. But nothing seemed to get things going in the right direction.

Asked after what turned out to be his last game with Washington how he can change the way the Wizards are performing, Saunders said Monday night: "You try to put different lineups in, play a lot of different people, try to do some different things."

Before joining the Wizards, Saunders coached 13 NBA seasons with the Minnesota Timberwolves and Detroit Pistons, reaching the conference finals a total of four times.

He was hired by Washington in April 2009, and given a four-year contract.

Wittman gets his third job as an NBA head coach, after going 100-207—a .326 winning percentage—with Minnesota and the Cleveland Cavaliers. Wittman was drafted by Washington with the 22nd overall pick in the 1983 draft.

"We have struggled as a team at times this season, but we have also seen a great deal of potential from our young players and glimpses of what we can accomplish together as a team," Wittman said. "The coaching staff will look to build on that by utilizing the length, athleticism and versatility of our roster to improve our defense and create more opportunities in the open court."

IT&E Kamote's feted in 2012 SEDA awards banquet

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

IT&E Kamote's out of Es'y Kitchen, came away as the most decorated team in the Saipan Electronic Dart Association's 2012 Summer/Fall Bud Light League awards banquet held last Sunday at the Charley's Cabaret of Pacific Islands Club.

IT&E Kamote's finished the season in first place in the regular season of the masters division and also took home the postseason Bud Light Cup championship.

The team is led by Master's Top Gun and most valuable player Jun Olita along with Eric Pascual, Kaysie Aquino, Jun Baltazar, George Medina, Heidi Aquino, Michelle M. Olita, and Ernie Domingo.

Es'y Kitchen's SOS Jokers claimed the runner-up prize and D'Pirates Destroyers took third place.

Other division winners included A-division's Mixed Bloodshooters 1 of D'Pirates Choice Bar.

Mixed Bloodshooters 1 also capped off its season with a Bud Light Cup title.

The team includes MVP Romy Intendez, Mario Espinoza, Dean Borja, Mario Jumalon, Joshua Wodson, and Rolly Morales.

D'Pirates' Sabalu Boys finished atop the Tuesday B-League field. Division Top Gun and MVP Ray Indalecio fronts the team along with Carter Calma, Damien Spis, Everette Indalecio, Naydine Aguon, and Alejandro Prado.

Third place finisher D'Pirates' Mixed Bloodshooters 2 came out as the division's Bud Light Cup champion.

Team members include Mario Espinoza, Bernard Paras, Roderick Osorio, Frank Codog, Manding Legaspi, and Ermin Nufable.

Meanwhile, D'Pirates Delubyo finished the season in second place and GCC Carpeters received awards for fourth place.

Es'y Echoserong Kamote's took top prize in the B-Fanihi division ahead of sister-team SOS Akiramenai and third placer World-B, of Bar Gaia.

Eschoserong members include league MVP George Medina, Michelle M. Olita, Jerome Sembrano, Rolly Morales, Renato Barros, and Jay Nunag.

In addition, the former's sister team SOS Akiramenai was crowned the B-Fanihi Bud Light Cup Champs.

SOS is made up of Alfred Muna, Justin Casama, John C, Camacho Jr., Naomi Samura, Alejandro Prado, Jeremy Koshiro, James Villacrusis, and Manny Blas Jr.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
Shortly after being hailed as the first place team for the master division's regular season, IT&E Kamote's members returned to the stage to pose with their Bud Light Cup championship trophies during last Sunday's SEDA awards banquet at the Charley's Cabaret of Pacific Islands Club.

Gaia's Gaiana-B finished atop the B-Flame Tree field and bagged the Bud Light Cup for sweep.

The team is comprised of division Top Gun Carter Calma, Roxanne Wakit, Felix Travilla, Derek Sablan, Kento Togawa, Eddie Villagomez, and Steve Chae.

Sands Bar's Anie's Imuza finished first place in the C-Division, however fifth-ranked Oh! MG, of Naked Fish Bar & Grill, stole the Bud Light Cup prize.

Anie's Imuza members include Top Gun and MVP Roderick Osorio Mark Estrada, Ryan Paras, Mark Butac, Bhek Dizon, Jamerie E. Paras, Azumi Ishida and Marc Brian Nelvis.

Oh! MG includes Carol Chargualaf, Angela Santos, Donovan Jose P. Castro, Arisa S. Peters, Jarick Atalig, Andy Golden, Pasqual Deleon Guerrero, and Nick Rabauliman.

Meanwhile, VFW Post 3457's Oneshot settled for runner-up honors, D'Pirates' Yotsketeh Boys finished third, and The Sparks took fourth place.

D'Pirates' Try Luck flat out dominated the Ladies' division this year.

Team members included Aida Laniyo, Rufina Guevarra, Martina Lisua, Emily Vargas, and Luz Antonio. Laniyo received MVP, Top Gun, and High Out (118) honors.

Man-Amigas managed a second place showing, while Joe's Steakhouse's Just Like That rounded out the third spot.

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. Power Plant of Jonny's came out as the first place winners in the Inter-Government division. However, regular season runner-up Attorney General Office's AG's Sakude! won the Bud Light Cup tournament.

CUC is made up of Patrick Taitano, Joy Silva, Noel Unay, Leo Cabrera, ray Cepeda, Erwin Clavecillas, Dennis Villagomez, and Greg Repeki.

AG's Sakude! is led by league MVP Jayson John along with Tony Tomokane, George Sablan, Eric Atalig, and Alvin Iglesias.

Team Sportsmanship honors were awarded to Jonny's Azkals for the Master's field, A's Gaiana-A of Gaia, Tuesday B's K-1 Snickers, B-Fanihi's Sekid of Jonny's; B-Flame Tree's Skoregazzzums of Joe's; C-Division's I Like It of Joe's; Ladies' Daffodils, also of Joe's, and Inter-Government's NMC PROA, out of Jonny's.

The individual awards categories included MVP, Top Gun, Hi-In, and High-Out presented to the top place finishers in each field.

Other MVPs included B-Flame Tree's Everette Indalecio of D'Pirates Sabalu. All MVPs maintained a perfect winning percentage except for Medina (0.993) and Intendez (0.937).

Other Top Gun winners included A's Kaysie Aquino of Ali'i Consultants' Kamote's, Tuesday B's Ray Indalecio, B-Flame Tree's Carter Calma of Gaiana-B; B-Fanihi's James Wabinga of World-B; C's Rod Osorio; Ladies' Aida Laniyo; and Inter-Government's Jayson John.

Hi-In winners included Master's Sadiri Martin of D'Pirates' M-Destroyers, and Julius Monton of D'Companeros; A's Romuel Chavez of D'Pirates' Bud Brothers; Tuesday B's Anthony Fitial of K-1 Snickers, B-Flame Tree's Ray Indalecio; B'Fanihi's Manny Blas Jr. of Es'y's SOS Akiramenai; C's Jake Licop of Gaia's World-C; Ladies' Rita Fitial of Man-Amigas; and Inter-Government's Jayson John. All Hi-In winners scored 160 except for Fitial (152).

Hi-Out winners included Master's Jeff Barit (155) of Es'y SOS Jokers, A's James Tudela (155) of Naked Fish's Naked Fish Boyz, Tuesday B's Jek-Jek Dionisio (121) of Es'y Kamote's Shawarma Boys, B-Flame Tree's Dexter Mendiola (160) of Joe's TBA Oneshot; B-Fanihi's Norman Camacho (129) of VFW Dutty Gunz, C's Scott Guerrero (141) of VFW Oneshot; and Inter-Government's Julian Camacho (170) of Department of Youth Services' Atdit.

This season's special plaque of appreciation went to VFW Post 3457.

SEDA would also like to express its appreciation to all of the participating venues and head sponsor Marpac-Bud Light Beer for all of their support.

RGA January Ace up for grabs

The January Ace title will be at stake this Sunday when the Refaluwasch Golf Association holds its monthly tournament at the Marianas Country Club in Marpi.

Check-in time is at 11, while tee off is at 12pm.

RGA member who scores better than net 70 will take home the first monthly Ace plum. If the net 70 is unbeaten, new RGA member Kim Soo automatically wins the January title. Soo topped the qualifying tournament held early this month to hold the score to beat for this weekend's event.

Meanwhile, RGA is still accepting members for an annual fee of $25. Club vice president Jess Wabol said members are eligible to win three major awards at the end of the season. First is the RGA Placido M. Tagabuel Club Championship trophy, which will be contested by the 12 monthly winners for 2012. The club champion also receives $200, free membership for one year, and a free entry to a tournament of his choice (RGA will pay for the entrance fee of the chosen competition).

The two other awards—Sid K. Peter and Tony Taitano—also entitled winners to a free one-year membership to the club. The Sid K. Peter award is given to a member who played the most tournaments in the season, while the Tony Taitano plum is for the golfer with the lowest net score (average) in at least 10 monthly competitions.

For more information, contact RGA president Joe Saures at 483-5508, Wabol at 288-1119, and treasurer/handicap director Sonny Flores at 234-1748. ***(Roselyn B. Monroyo)***

SSHS

From Page 28

MIEKO

From Page 28

Coffee Trail, XTERRA Saipan Championship, Tagaman Triathlon, Kaike Triathlon, XTERRA Japan, and possibly Half Ironman Philippines.

Carey is the women's defending champion in next month's Tour De Guahan (Guam), completing last year's 110km race in 3:30:27 and setting the new course record (women's) after crushing the 3:33:12 mark 2010 women's champion Chiyo Lombardi of Guam made during the inaugural race.

"I want to finish first and strong in Tour De Guahan to get ready for XTERRA and Tagaman," said Carey, who raced in the 100km Hell of Marianas, but failed to finish due to bike problems.

She also had bike troubles during last year's XTERRA Saipan and ran out of gas in the run leg to finish only fifth behind Shonny Vanlandingham, Carina Wasle, Renata Bucher, and Suzie Snyder.

Carey expects last year's Top 3 finishers to return this year and she also welcomes more pros coming over for XTERRA Saipan.

"More pros, more fun, more challenge and great race for me, for Saipan, and for them. Like I said before, I have to race against myself, I will try to do my best. If I try to be in front of someone, I know I will have a bad race and will not improve," the XTERRA Japan champion said.

To prepare for these races, Mieko works with husband, Kevin, in planning her training schedule on Saipan, as she will not be able to go to Australia this year to train. Carey also has friends helping her warm up for the 2012 races.

"I have a running partner in Mami (Mamiko Oshima-Berger) and that gives me the opportunity to challenge the best female runner on the island and push myself hard. She is also my running coach and she makes me run fast and strong," said Carey, who will be racing against Oshima-Berger in this Saturday's Coffee Trail.

"My first major event this year will be the Coffee Trail. It will only be my second time in the race, as I was in Australia in the last two years so I didn't have a chance to join. The course is hilly and it is a great run training. I train usually twice or three times a day except on weekends. Weekends are my biggest and longest training days as I don't work those days," Carey said.

SIS1

From Page 28

heads and shoulders above the rest of the field.

The Lady Geckos bested Marianas Baptist Academy in all three sets, 25-6, 25-18, and 15-12, while the Lady Dolphins schooled their junior counterparts MHS2, 25-1, 25-17, and 15-9.

Meanwhile, the SIS2 junior Geckos topped Kagman High School Lady Ayuyus, 25-23 and 25-16, although KHS managed to take the finals set, 15-9; the Grace Christian Academy Lady Eagles were gifted a win via a no-show by Saipan Southern High School.

GCA is still lingering behind the frontrunners with its 4-1 win-loss record while SIS2 improved to a 3-2 slate. MBA, MHS2, and KHS share identical 1-4 cards.

SSHS (0-5) is expected to finally suit up February, but until then the team will have to absorb the grief.

The season continues today at 4pm with MHS2 set to face GCA on the south court and SSHS scheduled to take on KHS north end.

Then the highly anticipated battle of the two unbeaten squads tips off at 5pm on the south court, while MBA squares off against SIS2 on the north end.

3 TEAMS

From Page 28

the top-ranked teams will boost the lower three teams' chances to the next round, which will be a best-of-three affair. The No. 1 team will square off against the No. 4 squad in the semis series, while the No. 2 and 3 finishers after this week's games will have their own semis duel.

Roc-It sealed a Final Four berth after whipping Give-a-Hoot last week. Roc-It "scunk" Give-a-Hoot in the first set and swept the last two sets for the easy victory. A set victory via "scunk" is given to the team that held its foe scoreless. After neutralizing Give-a-Hoot in the first set, Roc-It managed to limit the latter to seven points throughout the match. Toni Yamada led Roc-It's domination of Give-a-Hoot, converting points off her consistent service game.

In other results last week, Alpha Q broke into the win column in the second round after surviving Just-do-It in double overtime. Alpha Q took the first two sets, but failed to juice out Just-do-It after losing the third set. In Rocball, a team that leads the game after three sets can only get the win if it also prevails in the third set. If the trailing squad wins the third set, the game goes in overtime or o-kon. In o-kon, the leading team must win only once to finish the game, while the trailing squad must take two sets.

Just-do-It went on to extend the game to another set after drawing a goal from John Santy. In overtime, the team to score a goal first automatically gets the set win regardless of the scores. In the deciding second set, it was Alpha Q's turn to end the match outright, as John Kileleman scored his lone goal in the game.

5th Annual Coed Reverse Grass Volleyball Tournament

PHOTOS By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Tyce Mister jumps up for a spike.

Participants gather for a group photo at the conclusion of the 5th Annual Coed Reverse Grass Volleyball Tournament held last Saturday in Navy Hill.

Zoe Jewell fires over a spike against Toni Yamada, center, and Tyce Mister.

Aaron Engelhardt dives for a dig in the quarterfinals.

Angie Mister pops up the serve to teammate Chris Nelson in a lower bracket match against Laurie Peterka and Daymart Teregeyo.

Daymart Teregeyo goes for a serve.

Laurie Peterka pops up the serve to teammate Daymart Teregeyo, right.

Far left, Nick Gross pops up the serve to teammate Kelley Butcher.

Center left, Clay McCullough-Stearns serves as his teammate Amber Roberts looks on.

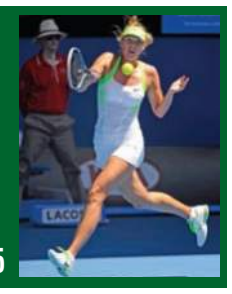
Left, Josh Borja pops up the serve to set up teammate Zoe Jewell.

Source: Fielder and Tigers agree on 9-year deal

24

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Sharapova, Kvitova set up Aussie Open semifinal



25

Mieko braces for tough races

CNMI pro triathlete Mieko Carey gestures to participants of a swim clinic held last Saturday at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A long list of races awaits CNMI pro triathlete Mieko Carey this year and she is aiming for strong showings in these events after having a few bad lucks last season.

SPORTS TLIGHT

"My race schedule in 2012 so far looks almost the same as 2011. I was disappointed with some of my results last year because I race against others not against myself. This year, I will push faster and harder as much as I can. I want to challenge myself and see how far can I go. I had bad races last year and I was not satisfied after the events. My goal this year is to finish every race without any regret," Carey said.

"It will be a great year for Mieko," the Saipan Swim Club assistant coach added.

This year, the 32-year-old triathlete will be competing in the Tour De Guahan, Marianas

See MIEKO on Page 26

3 teams secure semis berths in Rocball

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Three semis seats in the 2011 Rocball Fall League have been filled after last week's games at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

Making it to the Final Four are Aim Low, Roc-It, and the Teachers, which share similar 3-1 records for a tie for first place. Give-a-Hoot, Just-do-It, and Alpha Q, which hold identical 1-3 card, will battle for the last semis ticket with the winner of the contested slot to be determined at the end of this week as three more games are left to be played in the second round.

Incidentally, the three squads gunning for the remaining semis berth are scheduled to face the Top 3 teams in the field. Aim Low is set to duel Alpha Q, Roc-It is slated to challenge Just-do-It, and Give-a-Hoot is scheduled to meet the Teacher. Victories against

See 3 TEAMS on Page 26

SSHS crushes MHS2 in girls soccer

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Saipan Southern High School's Marrielle Gariguez dribbles the ball into scoring territory during their MISO girls soccer match against the Marianas High School junior varsity squad Tuesday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

MISO

A hat trick by Saipan Southern High School's Marrielle Gariguez led the Lady Manta Rays to a 4-0 victory over the Marianas High School junior squad (MHS2) as the Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization girls soccer season continued last Tuesday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

The win improved the SSHS Lady Manta Rays win-loss-draw record to 1-0-1, while winless MHS2 absorbed its third loss.

SSHS drew first blood in the first 20 seconds of the game. The Lady Manta Rays rebounded the ensuing kickoff and cleared it up to star forward Gariguez who was posted up on the outside.

From there Gariguez worked the ball up field and booted a strike from about 18 yards away from the goal.

MHS2 tightened up its defense after the early goal until the last five minutes of the first half when Gariguez broke free again and netted a pair of solo goals in the 25th and 28th minutes of the frame.

Gariguez patiently conserved her energy for the late push and eventually weaved her way through traffic for a pair of impressive goals.

SSHS was not finished after that and managed another goal off a free kick due to a handball in the opening minute of the second half.

SSHS' Mikky Vargas powered home the insurance goal from just shy of midfield.

The ball took a looping bounce that deflected off the goalie and into the net. As the ball made its way toward the net, Gariguez was streaking through the goalie

See SSHS on Page 26

SIS1, MHS1 *remain unbeaten in girls volleyball*

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan International School (SIS1) and Marianas High School's (MHS1) varsity squads kept their flawless records intact after the conclusion of Tuesday's Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization girls volleyball matchups held at the MHS Gymnasium.

The SIS Lady Geckos won last year's title, while the MHS Lady Dolphins issued the team its only loss in the double elimination final series, and five games into the season, the two teams remain

See SIS1 on Page 26

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Marianas High School varsity standout Toni Yamada powers over a spike in Tuesday's MISO girls volleyball match against the MHS junior squad at the MHS Gymnasium.